BEASTARS

Volume 16

Story & Art by

Paru Itagaki

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Volume 16

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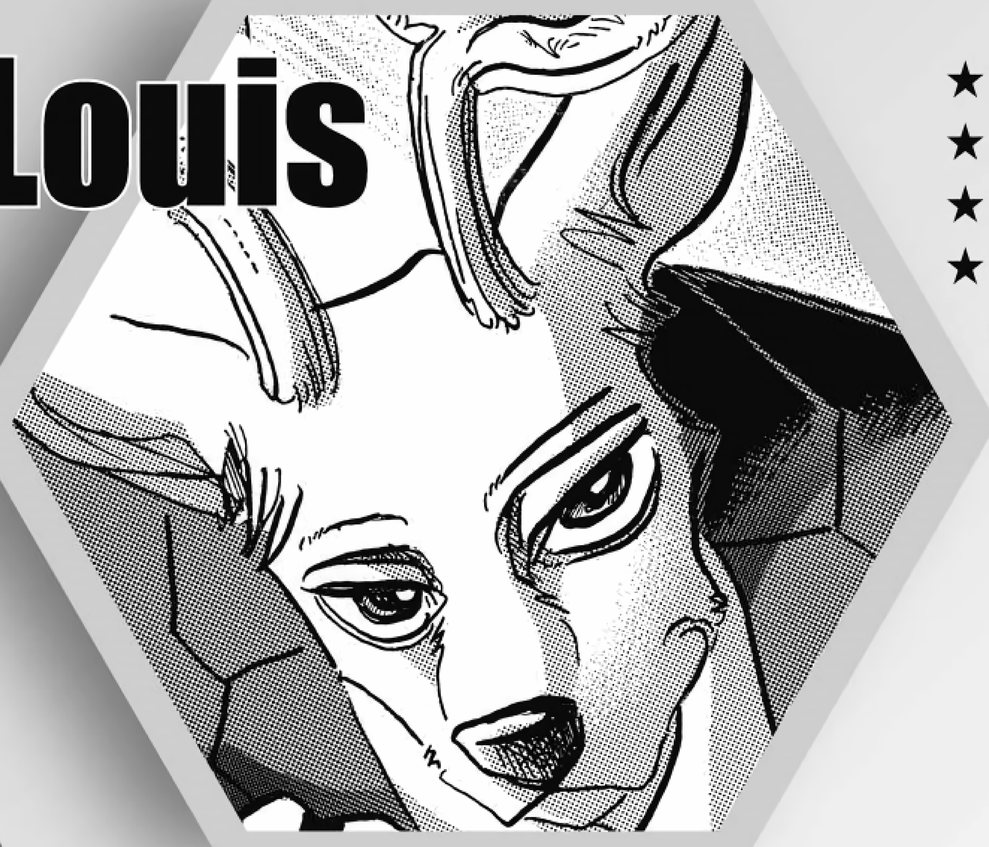
Louis

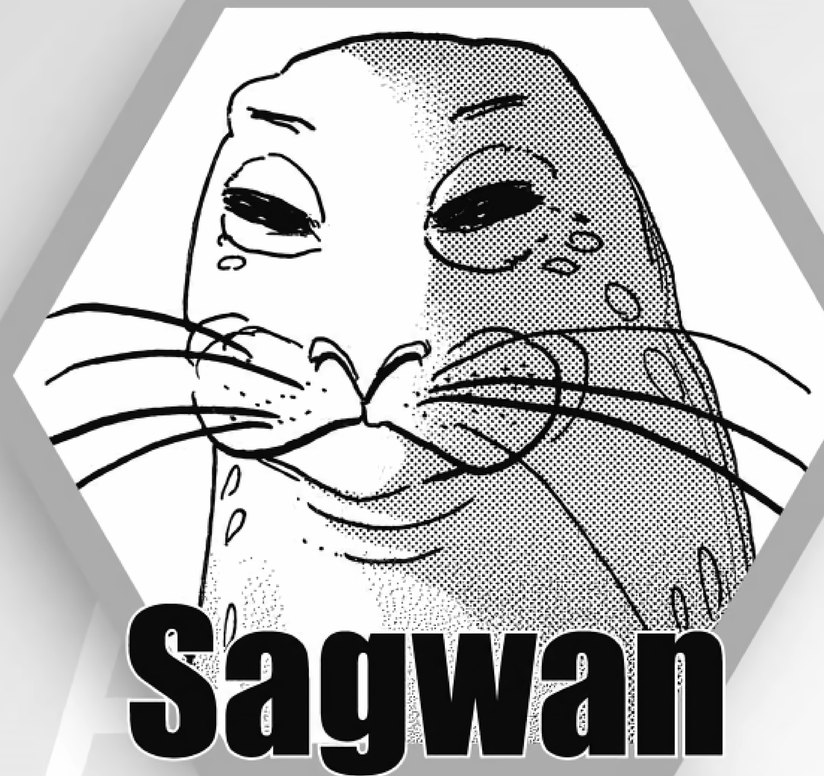


★Red deer ♂
★Former leader of the Drama Club actors pool
★Former leader of the Shishi-gumi lion gang
★Offered his leg to Legoshi so he could defeat Riz

Haru

★Netherland dwarf rabbit ♀
★University student

Sagwan

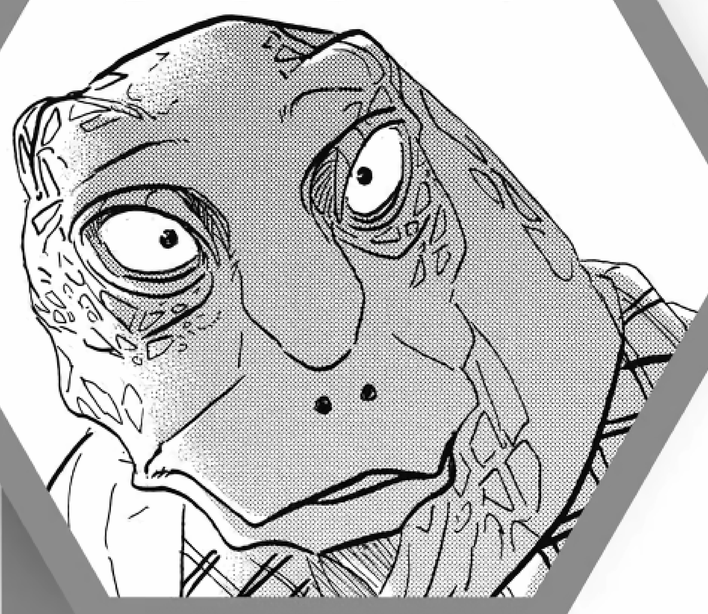


★Spotted seal ♂
★A half-marine, half-land animal
★Resident of Beast Apartments

Yahya

★Horse ♂
★Current Beastar
★Powerful combatant

Gosha



★Komodo dragon ♂
★Legoshi's grandfather
★Has a history with Beastar Yahya

Melon

★Half-leopard, half-gazelle ♂
★Elephant poacher who sells tusks on the black market

Leanno

★Legoshi's beautiful mother
★Gosha's daughter
★Why did she take her own life?

STORY & CAST OF CHARACTERS

Legoshi has been designated a registered meat offender after consensually eating his friend Louis's leg to give him the strength to defeat Riz, the bear who murdered their friend Tem. Now Legoshi has dropped out of school and is working at Bebebe, an udon noodle shop. Legoshi's feelings for Haru deepen after he has dinner with her family. But not only is he a carnivore, his criminal record also stands in the way of them ever getting married.

When Beastar Yahya asks Legoshi to help him capture elephant-poacher Melon, despite Legoshi's doubts about Yahya's moral compass, he agrees to assist him in exchange for having his criminal record erased. Legoshi is also curious to meet Melon because he is half-carnivore, half-herbivore. Legoshi and Yahya go undercover at a masked ball and apprehend Melon. Legoshi believes Melon is like the children he and Haru might have one day, so he takes pity on him and sets him free. Instead of being grateful, Melon shoots Legoshi in the chest, critically wounding him.

As Legoshi hovers between life and death, he meets his late mother, mixed-species Leanno, who committed suicide when Legoshi was young. She tries to explain to her son why she became so depressed, telling him about her fears of being rejected by a society that wouldn't accept mixed-species beasts.

Legoshi

★Gray wolf ♂
★Former Cherryton Academy student
★Ate his friend Louis's leg to defeat Riz
★Lives alone at Beast Apartments

BEASTARS

Volume 16

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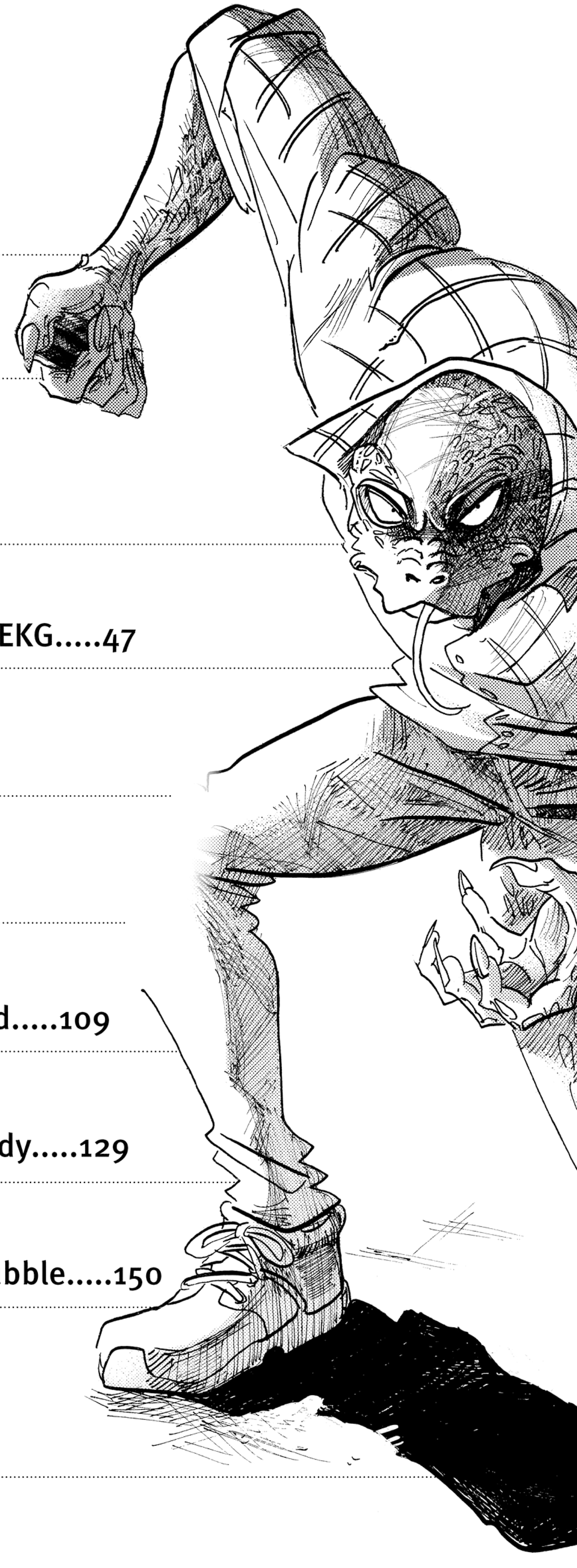


Chapter 134: Final Contact

THANK YOU.

Chapter 134: Final Contact

I'LL CUT THE STEMS IN WATER AND ARRANGE THEM.

THESE FLOWERS ARE LOVELY.

WE CAN GET ONE AT THE FLORIST IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER...

TH-THEN, DON'T WE NEED TO GO BUY A VASE TOGETHER?

LEGOSHI! YOU'RE HOME!

I'M SORRY, SWEETIE ...

I'M AFRAID TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD...

OKAY. LET'S MAKE SPRING ROLLS.

HEY, GRAND-PA.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE SPRING ROLLS TO-GETH-ER?

I GOT OFF WORK EARLY TODAY.

HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?

TUP TUP TUP

I'M SITTING CLOSER TO JACK NOW!

GOOD FOR YOU. YOU SHOULD INVITE JACK TO COME OVER AGAIN SOON.

SHE'S ILL, SO SHE'S DEPRESSED.

SHE'LL GET TIRED OF STAYING IN HER ROOM EVENTUALLY. THEN SHE'LL WANT TO COME OUT.

I KNOW SHE WANTS TO WATCH YOU GROW UP.

GRANDPA... IS MOM EVER GONNA COME OUT OF HER ROOM?

EH? YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HER...

BY THE TIME YOU WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL, I COULDN'T BEAR TO SHOW MYSELF EVEN TO MY FAMILY.

YOU KNEW...?

I'M SORRY I WASN'T THERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED ME MOST. BUT I'M ONLY A SPIRIT NOW, SO IT'S TOO LATE TO MAKE AMENDS.

I COULD TELL YOU WORRIED ABOUT WHAT I LOOKED LIKE WHEN YOU PUT YOUR HAND THROUGH THE HOLE IN YOUR DOOR.

WELL... I KIND OF FIGURED OUT THE REASON YOU'D SHUT YOURSELF UP IN YOUR ROOM HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR APPEARANCE.

YOU PRETENDED YOU WERE JUST STROK-ING MY FUR, BUT YOU WERE ACTUALLY FEELING MY FACE...

...TO CHECK MY FEATURES.

SO YOU KNEW... BUT IT WAS ALL ONLY OUT OF LOVE FOR YOU.

I DIDN'T WANT MY LITTLE BOY TO GROW UP TO LOOK LIKE ME!

I WAS DESPERATE TO KNOW WHETHER YOU WERE STARTING TO GET SCALES TOO.

BUT YOU REMAINED JUST AS I'D HOPED.

BEAUTIFUL FUR.

STRONG AND HEALTHY.

I WAS CONFIDENT YOU'D GROW UP LOOKING LIKE A NORMAL GRAY WOLF.

PHEW

...HE'LL BE FINE...

I'M SURE...

I WAS SO RE-LIEVED.

I KNEW YOU'D BE ALL RIGHT BY THE TIME YOU TURNED 12.

I'LL GO OUT NOW.

THE TIME HAS COME ...

...TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO MY BE-LOVED SON.

The Amazing Encyclopedia of Insects!

LEGOSHI...

ZZZZ

Z Z Z
Z Z Z

KREEK

...I HELD YOU IN MY ARMS AND SLEPT BESIDE YOU FOR A WHILE.

ON THE NIGHT BEFORE I ENDED MY LIFE...

...

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T SAY GOODBYE... I WAS A SELF-ABSORBED MOTHER UNTIL THE VERY END.

WHAT?

I'M SORRY I WASN'T HONEST EITHER...

I WANTED TO HUG YOU. I WANTED TO LOOK AT YOUR FACE.

BUT I KNEW...

...YOU CAME TO MY BED AFTER BEING SO DISTANT FOR SO LONG ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR.

I WAS SO SURPRISED AND HAPPY THAT...

...SO I KEPT STILL.

MOM... SOME-TIMES I...

...YOU'D BE HURT IF I SAW YOU...

IF I HADN'T HELD IN MY FEELINGS... IF I'D TURNED TO LOOK AT YOU... I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP YOU FROM KILLING YOURSELF.

...REGRET WHAT I DID THAT NIGHT.

...LOST MY LIFE.

...I ALMOST...

I LET MY EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF ME, AND BECAUSE OF THAT...

THAT'S WHY JUST NOW... I HONORED MY FEELINGS AND TRIED TO CONNECT WITH A HALF-CARNIVORE, HALF-HERBIVORE BEAST.

I'M SO STUPID AND FULL OF RE-GRETS!

SIGH... I ALWAYS MAKE THE WRONG CHOICE WHEN THERE'S THE MOST AT STAKE!

BUT IF YOU KEEP ON LIVING, YOU CAN CANCEL THEM OUT.

LIFE IS A NEVER-ENDING CHAIN OF REGRETS.

...BUT I ALSO GAVE BIRTH TO YOU.

THAT ALONE MADE MY LIFE A PERFECT SUCCESS.

MY LIFE WAS FULL OF RE-GRETS...

I'M SORRY I WAS A BAD MOTHER.

MY SON... YOU'RE AMAZING.

BUT I CAN'T HOLD YOU ANYMORE.

Central P

LEGOSHI, I WANT YOU TO *LIVE*.

YOU INHERITED MY BLOOD AND GRANDPA'S BLOOD...

YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE STRONGER AND GENTLER THAN ANY WOLF WITH A PUREBLOOD LINEAGE.

LEGOSHI'S CONDITION ISN'T GOOD...

I WON'T BLAME YOU BEFORE YOU GIVE ME AN EXPLANATION.

NO... I'M GRATEFUL YOU CALLED ME RIGHT AWAY.

GOSHA... ARE YOU ANGRY AT ME?

KRK

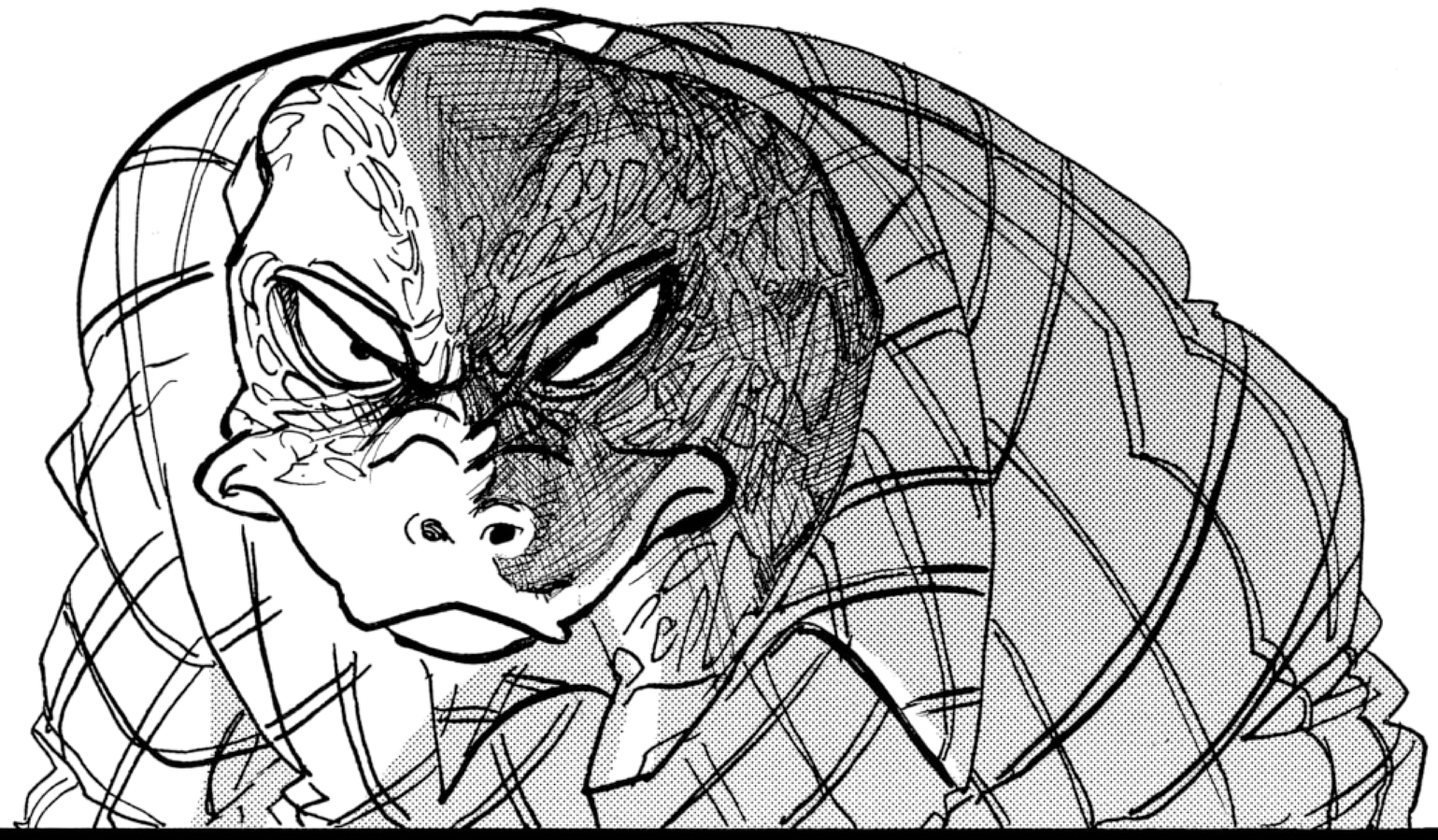
BUT THAT'S ONLY IF...

...LEGOSHI SURVIVES AND WAKES UP.

Chapter 135: Sweet Clouds of Steam and Green Japanese Peppercorns

A MOMENT AGO, HE LOOKED LIKE ANY GRANDFATHER WORRIED ABOUT HIS GRANDSON.

BUT NOW HE'S SHOWING HIS FEROCIOUS KOMODO DRAGON SIDE.



OR IS THAT JUST ANOTHER ASPECT OF YOUR GRAND-FATHER PERSONA, GOSHA?

Chapter 135:
Sweet Clouds of Steam and Green Japanese Peppercorns

LOVE?

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND THE LOVE OF FAMILY, DO YOU?

NOT WHEN IT COMES TO LEGO-SHI!

SO YOU'VE STILL GOT YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT AFTER ALL... I THOUGHT YOU'D TURNED INTO A DECREPIT OLD GEEZER.

THAT'S OUTSIDE MY AREA OF EXPERTISE.

I'M MUCH BETTER AT COMMU-NICATING WITH MY FISTS.

AGH !

GRAB

PERMIT ME TO EXPLAIN, GOSHA...

HNGH!

I ONLY PLANNED TO HAVE HIM ASSIST ME ONCE. I THOUGHT HE WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE— ASSUMING HE'D INHERITED YOUR FIGHTING SKILLS...

I'M SORRY FOR INVOLVING YOUR GRANDSON IN A DANGEROUS INVESTI-GATION.

!!

I NEVER IMAGINED HE'D LET MELON GO. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL.

REGARD-
LESS OF
WHETHER
HE INHER-
ITED MY
STRENGTH
...

...I
DON'T
WANT HIM
TO WASTE
HIS LIFE
FIGHTING!

UM...

TUP

WHAT IS IT?!

HAS HIS CONDITION WORSENED?!

I JUST WENT TO CHANGE HIS I.V. DRIP. BUT HE...

YOU'RE LEGOSHI'S GRAND-FATHER, AREN'T YOU?

I woke up. I'll return by dawn.

Legoshi

WHEN I ENTERED HIS ROOM, THE BED WAS EMPTY. HIS CLOTHES WERE GONE TOO. BUT...LEGOSHI HADN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS YET THE LAST TIME I CHECKED ON HIM.

hyuuu

I woke up. I'll return by dawn. Legoshi

THIS IS LEGOSHI'S HANDWRITING, ALL RIGHT... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE WALKED OUT OF THE ROOM ON HIS OWN. AND WHERE ON EARTH IS HE...?

Nn

gh...

HE HAD EXTENSIVE INJURIES TO HIS INTERNAL ORGANS...

It's the day when the gravita-tional force of the moon is strongest.

The power of the moon is at its peak on the night of a full moon.

Every-one gathers ...

...so both adults and chil-dren go out-side to bathe in the moon-light.

Beasts are able to absorb more nutrients and liquids due to this phenom-enon...

At the Deep Night market, stalls specialize in highly nutritional and perfor-mance-enhancing products.

Hot drinks

MILK STAND

Please return bottles to coun-ter

Straw-berry ¥130

Guarana ¥150

...at an event called "Deep Night" held only on full moons.

NIGHT

Moon Viewing Dumplings

Vegetable rice cakes

And that's why Lego-shi...

...went to a Deep Night event.

I'M WOBBLY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN LYING IN BED FOR SO LONG. I NEED SOLID FOOD.

DEEP NIGHT IS A TIME FOR BEASTS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR HEALTH. I KEEP GETTING HURT.

I ALMOST LOST MY LIFE.

AND I HAVE A SCAR FROM A BULLET WOUND NOW.

fwap

URK!

DEEP NIGHT

4/19 7/17

5/19 8/15

6/17 ←Today

TODAY IS JUNE 17... THAT MEANS I'VE BEEN IN A COMA FOR A WEEK!

WAS IT MY MOTHER WHO GAVE ME THE POWER TO COME OUT OF IT?

IS IT BECAUSE I INHERITED GRANDPA'S STRENGTH AND IMMUNITY TO POISONS?

OR DID THE FULL MOON AWAKEN ME?

MILK STAND

110 110 130 140 140 130 140 110 110 130 160 150 120 140 140

HI. ONE BOTTLE OF WHOLE MILK, PLEASE.

I HAVEN'T EATEN IN SO LONG. MILK WILL SOOTHE MY STOMACH.

Guarana

¥150

¥100

ermented drink

The stalls sell drinks like sweet fermented rice and sake eggnog. Beasts of all species can ingest these liquids.

Please check out the Beastars anime!

Beastars continues in vol. 17!

Benefits of sweet fermented rice drink

Beasts also enjoy the moonlight at the market, so stalls sell boiled moon-viewing dumplings with vegetables kneaded into the dough.

BANANA

And there are sweet, deep-fried bananas high in calories.

It's like a spa treatment.

...on Deep Night.

Every-one eats and drinks while bath-ing in the moon-light...

THANK YOU.

HERE'S YOUR UDON NOODLE STEW! CANIDAE CUSTOMERS GET A COMPLI-MENTARY OAT TOPPING!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE A GROWN-UP WAS KIND TO ME...

Time to eat!

I'VE COME BACK TO LIFE!

IT MAKES ME FEEL ALIVE...

I CAN LIVE ON TO CANCEL MY REGRETS!

THIS TASTES SO GOOD!

...AND COMING TO VISIT AND TALK TO ME AGAIN.

FOR GIVING BIRTH TO ME...

DID I REMEM-BER TO THANK MOM?

YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE STRONGER AND GENTLER THAN ANY WOLF WITH A PUREBLOOD LINEAGE.

CAN I LIVE UP TO MOM'S EXPECTA-TIONS...?

Melon 200円

Water-melon 200円

...FROM YOUR NIGHT STROLL. AND THE WORLD OF THE DEAD.

YOU'VE RETURNED...

I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN MAKE UP FOR LETTING MELON GO...

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID— FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED.

AT LEAST YOU'RE ALIVE. I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN TO—

I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED AN AMA-TEUR TO ASSIST ME.

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE ANGRY WITH YOU.

WELL ...

I'M BEGGING YOU! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR MY MIS-TAKE!

PLEASE LET ME RECAP-TURE MELON!

UM...

I'M CANCELING YOUR CONTRACT. YOU BARELY SURVIVED. YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW. GO BACK TO YOUR UDON NOODLE SHOP.

NO.

BUT I SPENT ALL THE MONEY YOU PAID ME...

DEEP NIGHT

...SO YOU CAN'T CANCEL MY CONTRACT!

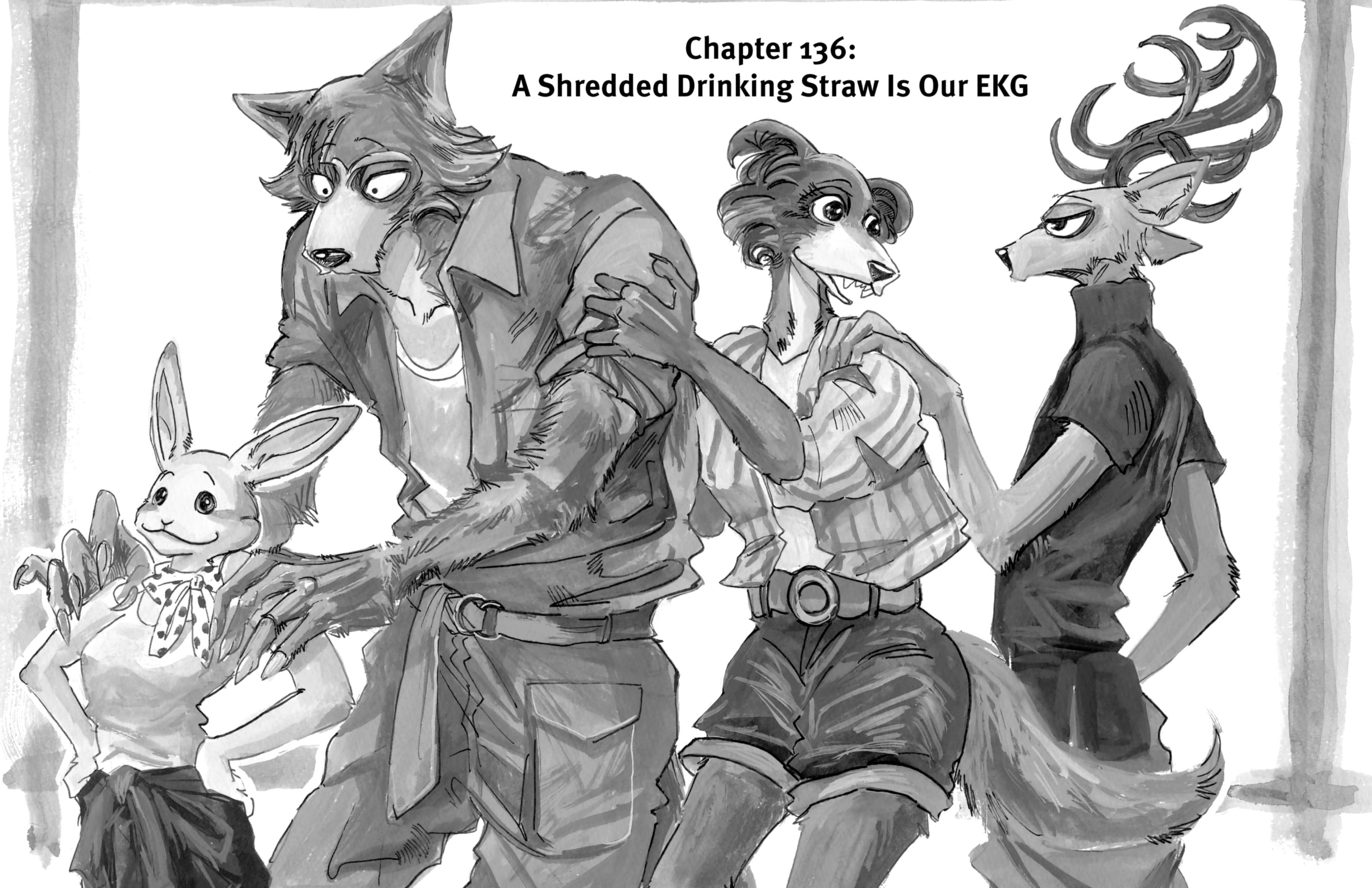
I'M S-SORRY. SO MY CONTRACT IS STILL VALID THEN, RIGHT?

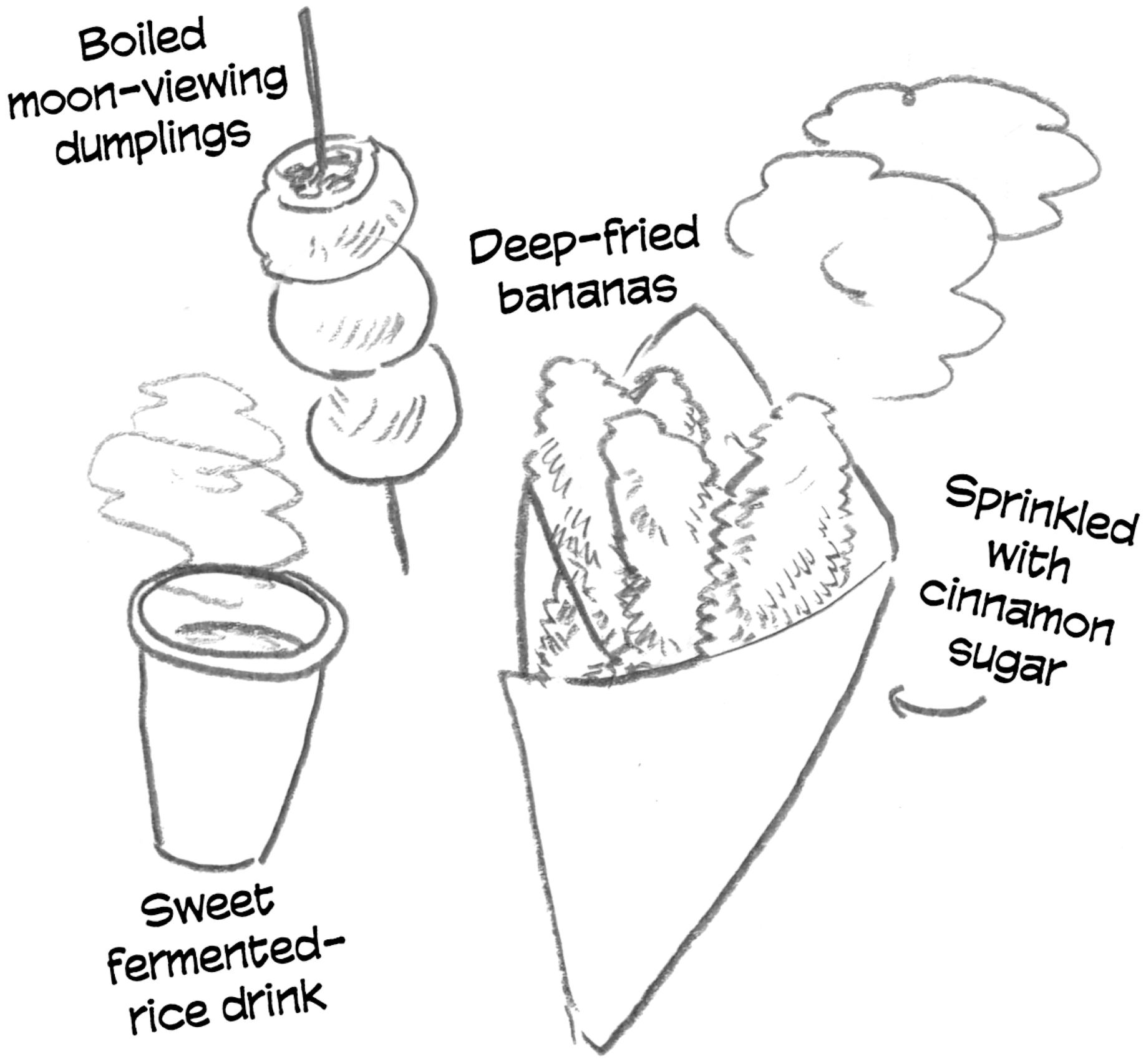
DID YOU BUY PROP-ERTY OR SOME-THING?

WHAT?!

ACTUALLY, I ONLY SPENT ABOUT 700 YEN.

Chapter 136:
A Shredded Drinking Straw Is Our EKG




Boiled moon-viewing dumplings
Deep-fried bananas
Sprinkled with cinnamon sugar
Sweet fermented-rice drink

About 70 percent of the usual length at this point

...MY HORNS ARE GROWING SLOWER THAN USUAL.

I HAVE SO MUCH ON MY MIND LATELY THAT...

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH THE BLACK MARKET ANYMORE. WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

SHOULD I ASK LEGOSHI FOR ADVICE?

Boss, come back!

HOW CAN I HELP THE SHISHI-GUMI LIONS?

NOT TO MENTION...

BUNT

...WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS FEMALE WOLF?

...

BAM

EEK!

YOU CER-TAINLY HAVE EXCEL-LENT KINETIC VISION.

I'M SCARED OF BUGS!

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF YOUR HUNTER'S INSTINCTS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE FEMALE.

YOU'RE SCARED OF BUGS? YOU JUST SQUASHED ONE WITH YOUR BARE PAW!

JUNO AND I...

...HAVE BEEN GETTING TO-GETHER ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH TO CHAT OVER TEA...

EVER SINCE GRADUA-TION...

It's not that.

Argh! No!

...
WHEN I ASK YOU OUT TO A CAFE.

...WHY YOU ALWAYS SAY YES...

I'M JUST HUMORING YOUR TEENAGE CURIOSITY.

MY TEEN-AGE CURI-OSITY 2!

LOUIS... I'M BEGIN-NING TO WONDER ...

...NEITHER OF US HAVE MENTIONED OUR KISS. WE JUST CATCH UP ON OUR LIVES OVER TEA... AND I DO MY BEST TO STAY CALM.

TO WANT TO TALK WITH AN OLDER MALE AND TO SOCIALIZE WITH AN HERBI-VORE.

I CAN FULFILL BOTH WISHES AT ONCE. EFFICIENT, ISN'T IT?

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO ACT SO SUPERIOR?!

WELL, YOU'RE JUST TURNING 17 THIS YEAR. IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU TO BE AWED BY ME.

YOU'RE SUCH A JERK.

GRR...

SO WHY HAVE I FALLEN SO HARD FOR YOU?!

YOU'RE MEAN. YOU LOVE TO ARGUE. YOU'RE SCRAWNY... THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE POSITIVE I AM THAT YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.

...ANY FILTER?!

DOESN'T SHE HAVE...

Words fast-tracked straight from brain to snout

SHE WAS BORN TO RULE AT THE TOP OF THE PYRAMID BECAUSE SHE'S BOTH POWERFUL AND CHARMING!

BUT THEN... SHE'S FREE TO SAY AND DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS, AND OTHER BEASTS JUST ACCEPT IT. IN SOME RESPECTS, SHE'S AN EVEN MORE TERRIFYING CARNIVORE THAN THE SHISHI-GUMI MEMBERS OR LEGOSHI.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

NOW

I DON'T WANT ANY-THING TO DO WITH A FE-MALE LIKE YOU!

MAKES ME FEEL SO INFERIOR I COULD DIE...

...AND QUIETER THAN ME.

I'VE ALWAYS CHOSEN FEMALES WHO ARE SMALLER, WEAKER...

HER CANIDAE NATURE MAKES HER SO OUTGOING ...

POP NOSE

THE TRUTH IS, I FIND HER REFRESHING AND INTRIGUING ...

THE FLEETING EXPRESSIONS THAT PLAY ACROSS HER FACE...

WHAT?! YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?!

ALL RIGHT, TIME TO GO.

OOPS.

I COULD WATCH HER FOREVER...

Thank you, come again! You can just leave your cups on your table!

COME ON. HURRY UP.

UM... YEAH.

THE STAFF'S CLEARING THE TABLE FOR US! ISN'T THAT NICE?

BUS STOP

I'VE GOT TO TELL HER THE TRUTH— PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US!

LOUIS, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS AFTER THIS?

YOUR... WHAT?!

I'M MEETING MY FIANCÉE TONIGHT. FOR DINNER.

HER FATHER IS THE CEO OF A LARGE CORPO-RATION. SHE'S A RED DEER, LIKE ME.

I'M THE HEIR TO THE HORNS CONGLOMER-ATE. I'VE BEEN ENGAGED SINCE I WAS A LITTLE FAWN.

HAVEN'T I MEN-TIONED HER?

...WHEN I MEET YOU.

SO NOW YOU KNOW I HAVE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES...

I CAN'T RESIST THE URGE TO CHASE YOU IF YOU RUN AWAY FROM ME.

YOU TOLD ME NOT TO BE ASHAMED OF MY HUNTING INSTINCTS BECAUSE I'M FEMALE.

LOUIS...

YOU WERE STARING AT THE DRINKING STRAW I CHEWED ON, WEREN'T YOU?

WERE YOU REMEMBERING... OUR KISS?

DON'T YOU WANT ME... TO DO THAT TO YOU?

TO...

HOW DARE YOU BEHAVE LIKE A PREDATOR WITH THAT SMIRK ON YOUR FACE!

GRAB

YOU'RE WRONG!

WE HAVE A GREAT RELATION-SHIP!

HEY!

GOOD-BYE.

IT'S JUST A MAR-RIAGE OF CONVE-NIENCE!

I D-DON'T BELIEVE YOU AND YOUR FIANCÉE ARE CLOSE!

KLINK

KLINK

KLINK

KLINK

YES... THANK YOU.

IN ANY CASE, AZUKI... I'M GLAD THINGS ARE GOING WELL FOR YOU.

SIX MONTHS AGO? NO, A YEAR?

WHEN DID WE LAST SEE EACH OTHER?

I WAS INVOLVED IN AN ACCI-DENT... I WAS LUCKY TO SURVIVE.

YES... I DID.

FATHER TOLD ME YOU LOST YOUR RIGHT LEG.

YES.

WHAT?!

CAN YOU STILL FUNCTION SEXUALLY?

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO FIND OUT YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF FATHER-ING CHILDREN YEARS AFTER OUR WEDDING.

THAT'S WHAT MATTERS FOR OUR MARRIAGE.

I'M NOT GOING TO DIGNIFY THAT QUESTION WITH AN ANSWER. HORNS CONGLOMER-ATE ISN'T THAT DESPERATE.

YOU'RE MORE INNOCENT THAN I THOUGHT.

HEH HEH...

FORGIVE ME.

I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR EXAMPLE AND ASKED IN A MORE APPEALING WAY.

HOTEL AMOND

I'VE RESERVED A ROOM.

WE'LL BE HUSBAND AND WIFE BEFORE TOO LONG...

WHY DON'T WE GET A LITTLE MORE INTIMATE NOW? YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU...?

Beast Apartments

...
UM...

WAH-HHH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE. IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER.

JUNO... WILL YOU PLEASE AT LEAST TELL ME WHY YOU'RE CRYING?

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN IN THE DRAMA CLUB?

FRESH! DOG WATER

SNIFFLE

OH, EVERY-ONE IN THE DRAMA CLUB KNOWS WHERE YOU LIVE.

HOW DID YOU FIND ME, ANY-WAY?

IS THAT SO...

WAH-HHH!

ARE THEY HAVING A LOVERS' QUAR-REL?!

SHE'S CRY-ING SO HARD ...

504

I'm awake

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK FOR ADVICE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

He's the Don Juan of Beast Apart-ments!

HOW MANY GIRLS IS HE FOOL-ING AROUND WITH ?!

BUT YOU'RE STILL OLDER THAN ME!

Eh?

...BUT I'M A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT. I'M NO WISE SAGE.

I'LL LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU FEEL COMFORT-ABLE SHARING WITH ME...

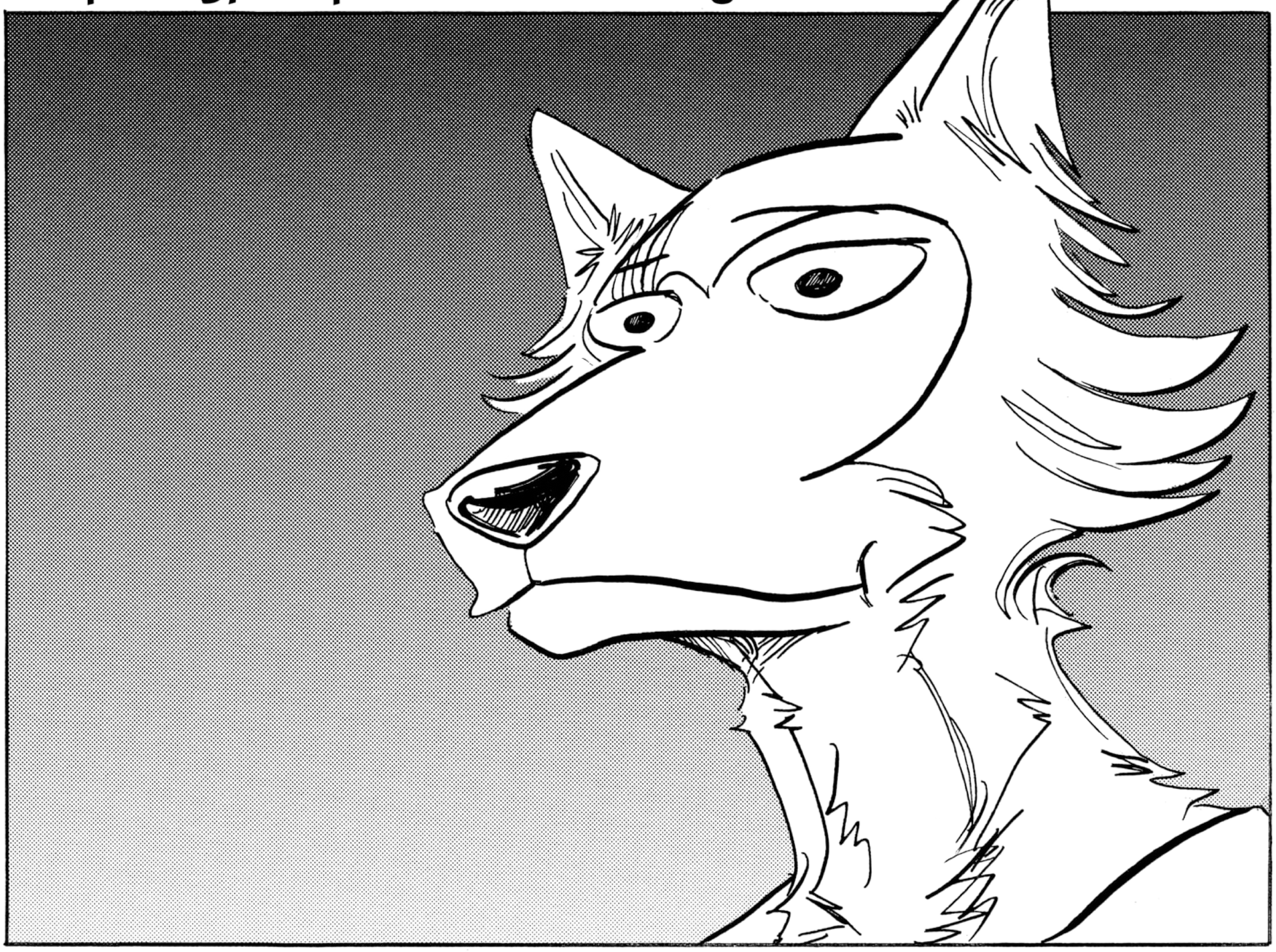
AND YOU HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH INTER-SPECIES LOVE!

WHAT ?!

I NEED ROMANTIC ADVICE FROM YOU!

Beast Apartments

Chapter 137: Departure from Shangri-La



HE FROZE UP...

UH-OH.

LEGO-SHIZ

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. YOUR BRAIN GLITCHED.

I'M SORRY. YOUR LOVE STORY IS SO INTENSE. MY BRAIN...

JOLIET

HA HA...

Sigh...

...I'VE FALLEN SO HEAD OVER HEELS FOR LOUIS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE...

LEGOSHI... HAVE YOU NOTICED WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?

WHAT'S THAT?

SIGH. TELLING YOU ABOUT IT JUST MAKES ME OBSESS ABOUT HIM EVEN MORE.

AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU KISSED HIM THE SECOND YOU REALIZED HOW YOU FELT.

You accomplished more in ***one day*** than I...still haven't been able to do...

I'VE BEEN GAINING WEIGHT...

...LITTLE BY LITTLE, SINCE THE DAY I REALIZED I'M IN LOVE WITH LOUIS.

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT HIM, THE *HUNGRIER* I GET...

YOUR HEART IS SUPPOSED TO POUND WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE, BUT INSTEAD MY STOMACH RUMBLES.

ISN'T THAT... DISTURB-ING?

SO... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK FOR ADVICE.

MY APPETITE AND MY ROMANTIC DESIRES ARE MIXED UP TOGETHER.

MAYBE WHAT I *REALLY* WANT TO DO IS DEVOUR LOUIS.

THE TRUTH IS, JUNO... I'VE BEEN AGONIZING OVER THE SAME ISSUE.

...A *SECRET TECHNIQUE* YOU CAN USE WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH AN HERBIVORE.

BUT THERE IS...

AND THAT SECRET TECH-NIQUE IS...

A... SECRET TECH-NIQUE?!

THAT'S RIGHT!

YES, MASTER?!

YOUR PERSPECTIVE AND WILLPOWER.

"SO SHOULDN'T I STOP LIKING HER?"

I THINK TO MYSELF, "I COULD END UP DEVOURING HARU ONE DAY."

THEN I GET ANXIOUS AND DEPRESSED.

PHEW

THE SECRET TECH-NIQUE IS... WHAT?!

WILL-POWER IS THE WAY!

It works!

WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH OUR INSTINCTS AS BEST WE CAN.

WE'RE CARNIVORES FOR LIFE, NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY TO DENY IT.

SO I FORCE MYSELF TO EAT SOMETHING HEALTHY AND GET SOME EXERCISE AND A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

IT'S POSSIBLE YOUR APPETITE INCREASED BECAUSE YOU'RE LOVESICK.

BUT IF WE LOSE CONTROL AND DO SOMETHING IRREVERS-IBLE... WE'RE FINISHED.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MAINTAIN OUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

INTER-SPECIES LOVE IS HARD.

THAT SOUNDS HARD.

...WITHOUT REMEMBERING MELON AND MY MOM. AND THEN MY TAIL DROOPS.

I'M NOT DOING TOO WELL AT THE MOMENT MY-SELF...

I CAN'T THINK ABOUT HARU...

RRRRMBL

THE CHAL-LENGES OF INTER-SPECIES LOVE ARE END-LESS...

Right, right ...

I JUST NEED SOME-THING TO EAT! ORDINARY FOOD!

I...

WERE YOU JUST THINKING ABOUT LOUIS?

LET'S GO OUT TO EAT THEN... WE'LL NEED TO WALK TO THE MAIN STREET. THERE AREN'T MANY RESTAURANTS NEARBY.

Beast Apartments

WHEN I WAS WALK-ING WITH HARU...

IT'S STRANGE, BUT...

...IT WASN'T LIKE THIS AT ALL!

WHEN I WAS WALKING WITH LOUIS...

EVERYONE MAKES WAY FOR US.

A SAME-SPECIES COUPLE OUT WALKING TOGETH-ER...

AND THEY'RE SO POLITE. WHICH MAKES ME FEEL...

...ENVY. OR ADMI-RATION... MAYBE?

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ALL LOOKING AT US WITH...

I WONDER WHAT JUNO IS THINK-ING...

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THIS WAY?

...

THE ONLY REASON LEGOSHI AND I GOT COM-PLIMENTARY DESSERTS IS BECAUSE WE'RE A SAME-SPECIES COUPLE.

...REALLY UNCOM-FORT-ABLE!

ENJOY YOUR DES-SERT. ♡

A FREE CUSTARD PUDDING FOR YOU!

The waiter looks scared!

THEY GAVE US DESSERT FOR FREE!

...THE STATE GIVES THEM A CASH GIFT AS A WEDDING PRESENT.

WHEN TWO BEASTS OF THE SAME SPECIES GET MARRIED...

THE STATE GIVES THEM ITS BLESSING SO THAT ENDEMIC SPECIES DON'T GO EXTINCT.

SO A PURE-BRED FAMILY HAS FINAN-CIAL SECU-RITY.

AND IF THEY HAVE PURE-BLOOD CHIL-DREN, THEY GET CHILD-CARE SUBSI-DIES.

I COULD GET EVERYTHING I WANT IN LIFE THROUGH A PUREBLOOD MARRIAGE.

SAME-SPECIES COUPLES ARE RECOG-NIZED BY SOCIETY. OTHER BEASTS PRAISE AND LOOK UP TO THEM. THEY LEAD COMFORT-ABLE LIVES.

(Growl-ing with worry) GRWL!

BUT IF SHE AND I END UP TOGETHER...

HARU GREW UP IN A NICE, BIG HOUSE.

GRWL!

GLOO——OOM

But don't they look like they just had a fight?

What a cool-looking wolf couple. I'm jealous.

They're a well-matched couple!

I'M TIRED TOO.

YEAH, IT WAS GOOD.

THE FOOD WAS GREAT!

THANKS FOR TREATING ME. WHEW! I'M TIRED NOW...

HAS THERE BEEN A KILLING AND DEVOURING INCIDENT?

OH! POLICE. AND REPORTERS.

KEEP OUT KEEP OUT KEEP OUT KEEP

GOOD EVENING. WE'RE WITH WEST SAFARI LIVE TV. COULD WE ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?

WHAT?! UH... SURE.

OH!

?!

URK

Give us a politically correct answer!

THE SUSPECT HAS ESCAPED. YOU'RE A CARNIVORE COUPLE. HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT THE KILLING AND DEVOURING INCIDENT ON THIS STREET TODAY?

WE'RE NOT DATING.

grab

ANYWAY... WOULD YOU GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE RISKS OF CARNIVORES AND HERBIVORES LIVING TOGETH—

WHAT?! OH... EXCUSE ME FOR ASSUMING.

HE'LL RE-JECT ME IF I'M AFRAID TO FACE THOSE RISKS!

I'M TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH A MALE DEER!

HOW DARE THEY?! I WON'T LET THEM DECIDE WHAT'S RIGHT OR WRONG AND CONTROL MY LIFE!

COME ON. LET'S GO, JUNO ...

AND TH-THAT'S OUR REPORT! NOW BACK TO THE STUDIO!

STOP! STOP THE CAM-ERA!

JUNO... WAS THAT PUDDING SPIKED OR SOME-THING?!

I DECIDE HOW I WANT TO LIVE!

Beast Apartments

PEEK

I THINK THE LAST TRAIN'S DEPARTED ALREADY.

I'M GLAD YOU FEEL BETTER NOW.

YEAH, I GET IT.

I'M S-SORRY I BLURTED THAT OUT. I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF. MY BRAIN WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE.

THANK YOU.

NOT AT ALL.

YOU DON'T MIND?

I'LL SLEEP IN A FRIEND'S ROOM... WHY DON'T YOU CRASH HERE TONIGHT? TOMORROW'S SUNDAY ANYWAY.

THANK... YOU.

BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT WITH A NAIVE SMILE LIKE I USED TO.

I LOVE ...

...ALL BEASTS — CARNI-VORE AND HERBI-VORE.

THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.

I CAN'T HELP FROWN-ING WHEN I SAY "I LOVE ALL BEASTS" NOW.

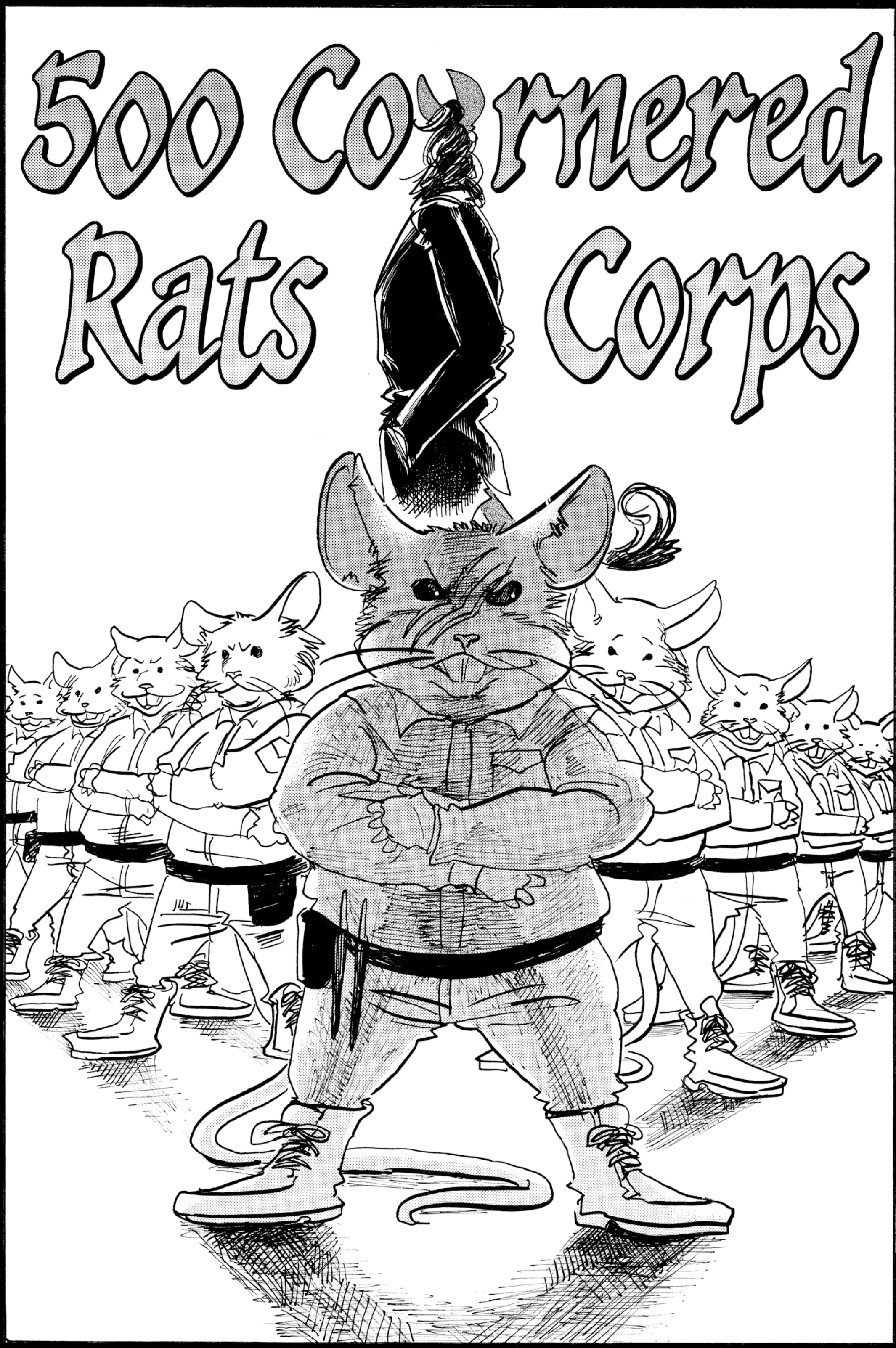
Sag-wan's Room

NO THANKS.

SAG-WAN... HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A SET OF PAJAMAS AS A GIFT?

BUT THAT'S OKAY... FOR NOW.

Chapter 138: A Fleeting 21,500 Years



HURRY!

THAT BANK HAS NO SECURITY! BWA HA HA!

SQUEAK...

GROCERIES

SQUEAK...

HEH HEH HEH... WHAT A HAUL! HOW MUCH IS THIS WORTH?!

SQUEAK...

WHAT THE HELL?! YOU'RE A BEAR CAT! WHY ARE YOU SQUEAKING LIKE A MOUSE?

SQUEAK...

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT... A CUT OF THE LOOT?

WHOA!

A-ARE YOU A GRIZZLY BEAR?

YOU FOOL ---

AGH!

ARGH!

NN-GH...

WE'RE ALSO KNOWN AS...

WE'RE JUST ORDINARY MICE!

SEE YA!

...THE 500 CORNERED RATS CORPS!

WHAT THE HELL?!

THEY TOOK OUR HAUL!

HEY!

WE ONLY STEAL FROM OTHER CRIMINALS.

THE 500 CORNERED RATS CORPS IS A GANG OF THIEVES THAT'S ACTUALLY MADE UP OF 500 MICE.

DONE!

ZOOOO

DID YOU STEAL THE WATCH OF THE INARI-GUMI'S SLOWEST GANG MEMBER?

OOOO

DONE!

MM

DID YOU OPEN THE BLACK MARKET AUXILIARY SAFE FULL OF CARNIVORE DRUGS?

M

THE BIGGER THE CRIMINAL, THE BETTER THE TARGET FOR US...

WE'VE COMPILED A MASTER LIST OF EVERY THIEF AND BURGLAR IN THE CITY.

THE 500 OF US HAVE MAPPED OUT THE ENTIRE BLACK MARKET AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

STOMP

STOMP

IT PISSES US OFF THAT THEY IGNORE US... BUT THAT JUST MAKES IT MORE SATISFYING WHEN WE OUTWIT A MUCH BIGGER BEAST!

BOSS! WHERE TO NEXT?

SHFFL SHFFL

I HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR 499 MICE...

BOSS ...?!

BIP!

...BE-NEATH THEIR NOTICE.

...BE-CAUSE WE'RE COM-PLETELY ...

Earl G

Noodle soup base

BOX

NOW THAT WE'VE CAUGHT THEIR RING-LEADER, OUR MISSION IS COMPLETE. SO...WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THE OTHER MICE?

STILL, IT TOOK US A WHOLE YEAR TO APPRE-HEND THEM!

THE RUMORS WERE TRUE. IT WASN'T EASY TRACKING DOWN THE 500 CORNERED RATS CORPS, BUT THE SCENT OF BLOOD ON THEIR BOSS'S LEGS GAVE THEM AWAY.

W-WE...

RUN FOR IT, GUYS!

Wanted

...WON'T ABANDON YOU! WE'LL COME WITH YOU!

DASH

YOU'RE FINISHED IF THE POLICE CAPTURE YOU! GO!

THE AVERAGE LIFE SPAN OF A MURIDAE IS 43 YEARS.

BUT THE LIFE SPANS OF US MURIDAE STAY THE SAME. WE CAN'T LIVE ANY LONGER THAN BEFORE.

THANKS TO MODERN MEDICINE, THE LIFE SPANS OF SMALL ANIMALS LIKE LEPORIDAE, MUSTELIDAE, AND SCIURIDAE CAN BE EXTENDED.

BUT WE REFUSE TO BE INVISIBLE JUST 'CAUSE WE'RE SMALL!

THAT'S HOW IT AL-WAYS GOES ...

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING SMALLER ?

SO OTHER BEASTS TREAT MURIDAE AS EXPEND-ABLE AND INSIGNI-FICANT.

Small Beast Route

NOT HERE.

IF OUR LIVES ARE SHORT, WE'LL LIVE 'EM 500 TIMES MORE INTENSELY THAN AN ORDINARY MOUSE. THAT'S LIKE LIVIN' 21,500 YEARS.

500 Co Rats rnered Corps

WE'VE GOT OUR PRIDE!

BRACE YOUR-SELVES WITH YER BACKS!

CURL UP! PULL IN YER CLAWS AND FANGS!

SPLAT

KA WHA ACK

STILL REFUSE TO TELL US WHERE YOUR HEAD-QUARTERS ARE?! WHAT'S MORE VALUABLE TO YOU?

THE THINGS YOU STOLE OR YOUR LIVES?!

HUF

HUF

IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE TO COVER UP YOUR DEATHS.

THE POLICE DON'T CARE HOW MANY MOUSE CRIMINALS DIE.

THERE ARE 500 OF YOU, BUT ALL YOUR LIVES ARE SHORT. DO YOU PLAN TO DIE HERE FOR NOTHING?

DO YOU HEAR ME?!

SMALL LIVES MATTER!

SMALL SPECIES THAT AUTOMATIC DOORS CAN'T SENSE...

LARGE SPECIES LIKE YOU WHO WEIGH A TON...

M-MR. YAHYAZ! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! WE HAVE OUR REA-SONS...

KICK

AND ME.

WE'RE ALL THE SAME.

GIVE ME YOUR LIST AND YOUR MAPS...

AND IT'S MY JOB TO SAVE SMALL LIVES.

...AND I'LL LET YOU OUT OF THIS INTERROGATION ROOM.

HAH!

WE'RE NOT TELLIN' YA NOTHIN'! WE'VE GOT OUR PRIDE!

EVERY LIFE...

...IS EQUAL, BIG OR SMALL.

YOUR SUBORDINATES SAY OTHERWISE.

WHAT Z! C'MON, GUYS!

G... GUYS...

...DOESN'T LOOK DOWN ON US. HE ISN'T TREATING US LIKE LITTLE KIDS EITHER.

THIS BLACK HORSE ...

BOSS! LET'S COOPER-ATE WITH HIM!

WE DON'T GOT A CHOICE. LET'S JUST GIVE 'IM WHAT HE WANTS.

...

YEAH!

HE'S A LARGE ANIMAL, BUT WE LIKE HIM!

I CAN'T IGNORE THE DIFFER-ENCE IN OUR HEART RATES.

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE WE STARTED WORKIN' FOR YA... BUT I AIN'T GOT MUCH TIME LEFT... HEH HEH...

I COULDN'T HELP BUT SMILE TO MYSELF, BECAUSE YOU WERE SO ARROGANT... IT'S A FOND MEMORY NOW.

BUT THANKS FOR TAKIN' CARE OF AN OLD GEEZER LIKE ME...

NAH... I CAN'T.

YOU CAN STILL DO YOUR JOB, BOSS.

...MR. YAHYA.

YOU'RE NOT SURE WHAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO IS...

I'VE SPENT A QUARTER OF MY LIFE WITH YOU. I KNOW YA LIKE THE BACK OF MY PAW.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO OBSESSED WITH ONE CRIMINAL. YOU CAN'T JUST FOCUS ON HIM.

...AND SAVE THEM.

YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP A WATCH-FUL EYE ON WEAKER BEASTS LIKE US...

BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY CANCELED OUR CONTRACT.

HE'S EVEN LESS DEPEND-ABLE THAN THE POLICE ...

IF YOU CAN'T COUNT ON THE POLICE TO CAPTURE MELON... WHY DON'T YOU SEND THAT YOUNG WOLF LEGOSHI AFTER HIM?

...A PIECE OF EVI-DENCE.

BUT YOU SE-CRETLY GAVE HIM...

...AT THE COSTUME BALL...

THE MASK MELON WAS WEARING...

SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU'RE SECRETLY HOPING...
...THAT HE'S STILL TRACKING MELON, AREN'T YOU?

Chapter 139: The Crimson Sky, Plowing the Field

WHAT CAN I GET YOU ...?

WELCOME!

¥100

-LUNCH-

Herbivore Combo Meal
Lots of veggies

Carnivore Combo Meal
Lots of protein

...AND ONE HERBI-VORE COMBO.

Carnivore Combo Meal
Lots of protein

Soy burger
Large french fries
5 hush puppies
Large drink

Cucumber
Daikon radish
Celery
Carrot

• Carrot burger
• Veggie sticks
• Tomato juice

ONE CARNIVORE COMBO...

YES.

ARE YOU EATING ALONE?

...

ONE CARNIVORE COMBO AND ONE HERBIVORE COMBO— ALL FOR ME.

I'M ALONE...

C- COM- ING RIGHT UP...

VOLT

...BUT I'M STARV- ING.

Chapter 139: The Crimson Sky, Plowing the Field

REALLY? GIVE ME A BITE!

THIS NEW MENU ITEM IS DELI-CIOUS!

YEAH, IT'S GOOD!

HEY...

WHAT THE HELL...

...DOES "DELICIOUS"...

...MEAN, ANYWAY?

SO TELL ME!

PLEASE...

...

HEH... I WANTED TO KILL HER, BUT JUST FOR A SECOND.

Sigh...

I DON'T HAVE A SENSE OF TASTE...

NOT THE TASTE OF AN HERBIVORE OR A CARNIVORE.

I WANT TO KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "DELI-CIOUS"!

I'M GOING TO RIP OFF YOUR FEATHERS, TURN YOU INTO A LUMP OF BRIGHT-PINK FLESH, TAKE A BIG BITE...AND INTERROGATE YOU!

...AVES. HOW DARE YOU THROW AROUND THE WORD "DELICIOUS" IN MY PRESENCE!

TIC

FOR A MIXED-BLOOD BEAST LIKE ME, EVERY-THING... ...TASTES LIKE SAND.

VEGETABLES. EGGS. VITAMINS. PROTEIN. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I FLAVOR THEM, NO MATTER HOW I PREPARE THEM...

SQUEEEEEEZE

THANK YOU. PLEASE COME AGAIN.

I THOUGHT MY SENSE OF TASTE MIGHT HAVE TRANSFORMED AFTER WHAT I DID THIS MORNING... BUT NO LUCK.

THE ME WHO'S A LEOPARD AND THE ME WHO'S A GAZELLE...

I SAW HIS PUPILS FOR A MOMENT. THEY WERE NARROW LIKE FELIDAE EYES...

THAT'S THE CUS-TOMER I WAS TALKING ABOUT... SOME-THING'S OFF ABOUT HIM.

HE HAS GAZELLE HORNS, BUT ALSO SHARP CLAWS.

CONIA

THE TWO MES ARE ALWAYS SCREAMING INSIDE.

EVEN WHEN I'M JUST WALKING AROUND TOWN... NO MATTER WHAT I'M DOING...

...

WHEN I SEE HERBIVORES, I HAVE AN OVER-WHELMING URGE TO KILL THEM...EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO DEVOUR THEM.

WHEN CARNIVORES GET NEAR ME, I'M IRRATIONALLY AFRAID OF THEM.

...TO STAY SANE.

SO I KEEP COMING HERE...

TATTOO

M-
M...

MELON.

HELLO.

YOU WANT HIM TO TATTOO YOUZ!

THIS TATTOO STUDIO SMELLS MUSTY, AS USUAL...

GET THE TATTOO ARTIST I ALWAYS SEE. HE'S HERE, ISN'T HEZ

...

WE FIRED HIM A WEEK AGO, BUT... HE'S STILL PACKING UP.

HE SHOULD NEVER WORK AS A TATTOO ARTIST AGAIN!

WE CAN'T LET PSYCHO KILLER SERVE OUR CUS-TOMERS ANY-MORE!

HOLGER

QUICK

YOU'LL BE DEAD BY THE TIME YOU FINISH PACK-ING.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

HEY, HOLGER.

Ahh...

ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?

DON'T BE LAZY. IS THIS HOW YOU GREET YOUR BEST CUS-TOMER?

SHOVE

YOU'VE OPENED YOUR MOUTH, BUT I WON'T TAKE THAT AS A GREETING.

KA-CHAK

SO YOUR BLACK MARKET NICKNAME IS "PSYCHO KILLER." THAT'S HILARIOUS.

HEH HEH HEH...

WHY DO BEASTS CALL HOLGER "PSYCHO KILLER"?

OH, RIGHT, YOU'RE STILL NEW HERE.

I HOPE HE SURVIVES... I DON'T WANT TO CARRY ANY MORE CARCASSES OUT OF HERE...

HOLGER'S INK SKILLS ARE SECOND TO NONE... HE'S FAMOUS IN THE BLACK MARKET FOR HIS BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK. CUSTOMERS FLOCK TO HIM.

WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WANTS A SLOTH TATTOO ARTIST PUNCTURING THEIR SKIN? HE'S TOO SLOW AND METICULOUS. HE TAKES SO LONG, HIS CUSTOMERS FAINT. HOW MUCH BLOOD DO THEY LOSE? HOW MUCH PAIN DO THEY EXPERIENCE?

BUT THINK ABOUT IT...

MELON IS HOLGER'S ONLY CUSTOMER NOW.

SOME OF HIS CUSTOMERS HAVE EVEN DIED! BUT HE DOESN'T CARE. HE KEEPS ON WORKING AS A TATTOO ARTIST. THAT'S WHY BEASTS ARE AFRAID OF HIM AND CALL HIM PSYCHO KILLER.

HOLGER ...

YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...

I NEED YOU TO TATTOO MELON LEAVES OVER THEM LIKE USUAL.

LEOPARD SPOTS HAVE STARTED TO APPEAR ON THE LOWER HALF OF MY BODY NOW.

I KNOW TATTOOING THE INNER SKIN OF MY BODY WILL HURT. BUT THAT'S WHAT I WANT.

...PLOUGH A MELON FIELD INTO MY HIDE.

I'M ASKING YOU TO...

YOU'LL KEEP SILENT WHILE I WHIMPER, WON'T YOU?

HOLGE

YOU CAN'T TALK FAST, SO YOU PRETTY MUCH KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

STAB

AGH! ARRGH ...

WILL MY GAZELLE HORNS FALL OFF?

WILL I TRANS-FORM INTO A LEOPARD ?

OHH-HH...

BWWWWWWW

Ah! Ah! Ahhh!

NNGH... RRGH...

I'M NEITHER LEOPARD NOR GAZELLE... BUT AT LEAST I FEEL ALIVE!

YES, YES! THIS IS WHAT I WANT!

ALL SPECIES FEEL PAIN. IT'S PROOF YOU'RE NOT DEAD.

NNNN

HOW CAN HE WALK AFTER LOSING SO MUCH BLOOD?

MELON FINALLY WENT HOME.

PHEW... YOU TATTOOED HIM FOR ALMOST HALF A DAY.

I WISH YOU'D AT LEAST CLEAN UP THE MESS YOU MADE... BUT IT'D TAKE YOU A WEEK.

QUICK

YOU, IN THE NEXT BOOTH! IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, NOTHING SUSPICIOUS IS GOING ON HERE... NO ONE WAS KILLED.

WHAT?

APP

HA HA...

N-NO PROBLEM. I WASN'T CONCERNED...

MY SENSE OF SMELL WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE NOW...

I TRACKED MELON'S SCENT. IT WAS HARD WORK FINDING THIS PLACE. BUT MELON'S ALREADY LEFT.

YOU WANT A TATTOO ON YOUR SHOULDER? WHAT DESIGN?

WHAT... DESIGN?

YEAH.

THE DATE?!

WELL, UM... HOW ABOUT... TODAY'S DATE?

I'M SORRY, MOM... I'M ADDING ANOTHER SCAR TO MY BODY.

ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T RUN INTO MELON WHEN I ARRIVED. SEEMS LIKE HE'S A REGULAR. I CAN GET SOME INFORMATION FROM THE STAFF INSTEAD.

HELLO... MELON...

AH... YOU BROUGHT A DANGEROUS OBJECT WITH YOU AGAIN...

I'M NOT LAZY...

WHAT? IS SOME-THING WRONG?

MAYBE I CAN GET SOME INFORMATION OFF HIM THOUGH...

IS THAT TATTOO ARTIST JUST REPLYING TO MELON **NOW**? AFTER HE'S LEFT ALREADY?!

BUT A MIXED-BLOOD BEAST LIKE ME HAS NO DESIRES.

EVERYONE INDULGES THEIR SENSUAL DESIRES TO FORGET THE PAIN OF LIVING.

IT'S AS IF I LIVE MY LIFE...

...WITHOUT A PENIS OR A STOMACH.

...AS IF HE'S ACTUALLY THERE, RIGHT NEXT TO ME...

IT'S LIKE I'M HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH HIM...

Chapter 140: Training an Actor to Perform Tragedy

...
MELONZ

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE DESIRE FOR SEX AND FOOD...

I FEEL GUILTY EAVES-DROPPING ON HIM!

AND IT SOUNDS LIKE...

IF WHAT THE STAFF TOLD ME IS CORRECT, MELON SPOKE WITH THE SLOTH FOR ABOUT 12 HOURS! THE TWO OF THEM MUST BE VERY CLOSE.

SLOTHS RESPOND EVEN MORE SLOWLY THAN USUAL WHEN THEY'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE THEY'RE CLOSE TO.

...A LONELY MIXED-SPECIES BEAST...

YOU'RE...

BUT YOU'LL GET THROUGH THIS. RAINY DAYS DON'T LAST FOREVER.

HE SOUNDS WEAK... AND ANXIOUS...

YOU'RE LONELY, MELON.

...MELON WAS REVEALING HIS TRUE SELF TO THIS SLOTH.

...UNDER-STANDS YOU...

NO ONE...

Thank you.

OH, YOU'RE DONE?

I NEED TO KEEP LISTENING!

O, LEAN....

I'M DONE, MISTER.

I KNOW IT'S TOO LATE TO ASK, BUT... ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED?

I HAVE TO CONCEN-TRATE!

THIS IS YOUR FIRST TATTOO, BUT THE PAIN DIDN'T SEEM TO BOTHER YOU...

I WANT TO TALK WITH MELON, BUT AT THE SAME TIME... I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR HIM! HE FRIGHTENS ME. BUT HE MUST HAVE FEARS TOO...

HE OWES ME AN EXPLANATION. I ALMOST DIED WHEN HE SHOT ME.

I HAVE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER! AND KEEP INVESTIGATING... BUT CAUTIOUSLY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER THIS?

HE'S EVIL, BUT... HE'S STILL A BEAST WITH FEELINGS.

SO MELON IS LONELY...

YEAH.

7/5 Wednesday

Thanks for coming.

HM... I WONDER IF THAT'S HIS BIRTH-DAY.

YOU'RE GOING TO THE SEA-SHORE...

OH, I SEE...

...MELON.

I HOPE THE OCEAN SOOTHES YOUR ACHING HEART...

KSSH

"...FROM THE MOMENT YOU'RE BORN."

"THE LIFE OF A MIXED-BLOOD BEAST IS FATED TO BE COMPLI-CATED..."

"...THEIR OFFSPRING ARE TREATED AS FOREIGN BODIES."

"ISN'T THAT STRANGE?"

"SOCIETY WANTS CARNIVORES AND HERBI-VORES TO GET ALONG, YET..."

...WHEN HE GAZES OUT TO SEA.

I WONDER WHAT MELON THINKS ABOUT...

WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT WHEN I GAZE OUT AT THE OCEAN?

UM, SO...

I DON'T WANT TO THINK OF MOM AND MELON IN THE SAME LIGHT...

ALL MIXED-SPECIES BEASTS SUFFER. THEY GO THROUGH IDENTITY CRISES. THEY'RE NOT BORN EVIL.

ALTHOUGH IF HARU WERE NEXT TO ME, I'D BE TOO FOCUSED ON HER AND SHE'D GET ANNOYED.

HM... THAT I WISH HARU WERE HERE SO I COULD TALK TO HER.

ALL CANIDAE LOVE WATER.

HRM... I'VE NEVER GONE SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN WITH MY OLD ROOMMATES. THAT WOULD BE FUN!

HM...

SEVEN COULD COME WITH US... THAT WOULD BE FUN TOO!

ALSO, I'D LIKE TO GO INTO THE OCEAN WITH SAGWAN SOME-DAY AND HAVE HIM SHOW ME AROUND HIS HOME.

I GUESS OVERALL I'VE BEEN PRETTY HAPPY...

HAVE I BECOME MORE OPTIMISTIC?

...MOST OF MY LIFE.

PAFF PAFF

...FORWARD TO THINGS.

I'M LOOKING...

WELL, THIS IS A SURPRISE...

KSSH

wag wag

THANKS TO MY GRAND-PA, MOM...

...AND ALL MY FRIENDS.

I DON'T THINK I CAN BE THAT SOMEONE...

...BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER ...

...WISHING SOMEONE— ANYONE— UNDERSTOOD HIM...

I WONDER IF MELON IS GAZING OUT AT THIS SEA ALL ALONE...

SLASH

...

BOOM!
♪
DU DU DU
DUMMM!

THAT'S MY CUE FOR MY GRAND EN-TRANCE!

KA-

CHAK

...IS THE PROTAGO-NIST OF THIS TRAGEDY!

TWIRRL

TWIRL

THE YOUNG MALE WITH A LEOPARD MOTHER AND A GAZELLE FATHER...

...HE GAZES OUT TO SEA WITH A MELAN-CHOLIC EXPRES-SION!

THE TRAGIC HERO ALWAYS APPEARS IN A SCENE IN WHICH...

LIKE... THIS. I'M A PRETTY GOOD ACTOR, HUH?

A TRAP...

"...A LONELY MIXED-SPECIES BEAST..."

"YOU'RE..."

"RAINY DAYS DON'T LAST FOR-EVER."

"BUT YOU'LL GET THROUGH THIS."

"YOU'RE LONELY, MELON."

I AM LONELY!

I FEEL LIKE IT'S RAINING EVERY DAY.

I AM LONE-LY...

IT WAS ALL A TRAP!

THE SENSES OF A MIXED-SPECIES BEAST ARE SO SHARP THEY BORDER ON THE PATHO-LOGICAL.

I SPOTTED YOU ON MY TAIL A LONG TIME AGO.

I KNEW YOU WERE TRACKING ME.

I WAS SURPRISED YOU WERE STILL ALIVE, THOUGH...

HEY, LEGO-SHI!

WILL YOU BE THAT ONE BEAST WHO TRULY GETS ME?!

...TOOK THEM SERI-OUSLY. THE WAY YOU WERE GAZING AT THE SEA JUST NOW...

AND YOU...

I MADE THAT SLOTH TATTOO ARTIST SAY A COUPLE OF CORNY LINES.

HE'S... TERRIFYING.

THAT WAS CLASSIC! I WANTED TO PRODUCE A TRAG-EDY, BUT COMEDY SUITS YOU BETTER!

AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

AHA HA HA HA ...

OH... OH... I'M LAUGH-ING SO HARD MY STOM-ACH HURTS.

EVIL...

YOU THINK I'M SUFFERING BECAUSE I'M A MIXED-SPECIES BEAST? YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME? I FIGURED THAT WAS WHY YOU LET ME GO THE OTHER DAY.

SO...

YOU'RE LIVING IN A SENTI-MENTAL FAN-TASY WORLD. ♡

EVIL REALLY EXISTS...

TAP

THIS WAS A BLAST!

THANKS A LOT!

THIS IS BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS!

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO PROVIDE SO MUCH ENTERTAIN-MENT!

DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE WITH HIS LIFE THIS TIME.

I HAVE TO REWARD MY TEAM SOMETIMES. YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO EAT HIM.

GROWL ...

HE TREATS US LIKE KIDS.

"YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO EAT HIM"?!

*See vol. 6.

WE MET LAST WINTER.* I GUESS WE WERE DESTINED TO MEET AGAIN.

YO, WOLF PUP!

I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO A REAL MESS...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE ...

SO MELON HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE SHISHI-GUMI...

AND NOW WE'RE STUCK WORKIN' FOR A BOSS WHO'S A NUTCASE!

COME TO THINK OF IT, THINGS STARTED GOING WRONG FOR US LAST SUMMER—RIGHT AFTER THIS WOLF ATTACKED OUR HEADQUARTERS.

WE CAN'T *EAT* A BAD-LUCK CHARM.

THIS WOLF DE-STROYED THE SHISHI-GUMI!

FELIDAE ARE PROUD.

THIS HAS NOTH-ING TO DO WITH LOUIS!

BUT...IF NOT FOR HIM, WE WOULDN'T HAVE MET LOUIS...

WE'RE NOT LIKE CANIDAE... WE DON'T EAT ANYTHING THAT ISN'T POISONOUS!

BUT WE DESERVE *RE-VENGE...*

Quick Dry Cement

SO...

...WE FELIDAE FEAR THE MOST.

...WE'LL GET RID OF YA THE WAY...

KOSSH

BY DROPPING YOU INTO THE SEA.

THAT'S JUSTICE.

Hyu uuuuuuuu uuu

BECAUSE WE LIONS CAN'T EVEN STAND GETTING WET IN THE RAIN!

Heh heh heh...

I'D RATHER NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN THAN DROWN!

HE LEFT AGES AGO.

IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE, MR. WOLF?

I'VE GOT THE FEELING SOME-ONE'S LOOKING AT ME.

QUICK

Chapter 141: Trapping a Mermaid's Song in a Bubble

BEASTARS
Vol. 16

THE TWO SPECIES HAVE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES FROM THE BEGIN-NING OF TIME.

FELIDAE AND CANIDAE...

AND TONIGHT, YOU AND WE WILL SEVER OUR TIES.

...

KSSH

WE'VE FIGURED OUT THAT EVIL BEAST'S WEAK-NESS.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE AFTER MELON, BUT DON'T SWEAT IT.

MELON'S WEAK-NESS?

IT'LL TAKE A WHILE BECAUSE HE'S TOUGH, BUT...

WE'LL GET HIM UNDER CONTROL... EVENTU-ALLY.

UM...

THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO BEG FOR YOUR LIFE, SINCE WE'RE ABOUT TO DROP YOU INTO THE OCEAN...

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE TOSSING LOUIS'S FRIEND INTO THE SEA.

WE'LL GIVE YOU TIME FOR YOUR LAST WORDS AT LEAST. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?

...WHAT MELON'S WEAKNESS IS?

...WILL YOU TELL ME...

IF I RETURN IN HALF AN HOUR...

...

WHAT?!

NO NO NO! THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

MELON IS TOO POWER-FUL. I CAN'T FIGHT HIM ALONE.

SIGH

I DO... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

UM... HEY! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING HERE?

fsssshh

DON'T YOU GET IT? YOU'RE ABOUT TO SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEP BLUE SEA!

YOU'RE TIED TO A CHAIR.

YOUR FEET ARE STUCK IN CON-CRETE.

IS HE... POUT-ING?

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!

HE'S READY TO GET THROWN INTO THE WATER.

NAH... HE'S TRYING TO HOLD IN AS MUCH OXYGEN AS HE CAN.

...YOU MAKE IT BACK HERE ALIVE!

Ahahahaha...

ALL RIGHT THEN... THAT'S A FUN CHAL-LENGE.

IT'S A DEAL!

WE'LL TELL YOU WHAT MELON'S WEAKNESS IS.

BUT ONLY IF...

KICK

KA SPLASH

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!

THAT'S HOW I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE!

"YOU'RE LIVING IN A SENTIMENTAL FANTASY WORLD.♡"

LET'S GO TO THE PUBLIC BATH TO-GETHER!

HEY, LEGOSHI...

I GREW UP IN THE SEA, SO I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY BEASTS WOULD WANT TO WASH THEIR BODIES.

BUT I STARTED ENJOYING BATHING AFTER YOU TOOK ME TO THE PUBLIC BATH A FEW TIMES.

YOU LIKE TAKING BATHS NOW?

YES. I DIDN'T LIKE THEM AT FIRST THOUGH.

SURE, SAGWAN. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HEAD OVER THERE.

!

STMBL

OOPS!

AND SEAWATER AND HOT WATER ARE COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT! I LOVE BATHS!

RIGHT.

I'M GLAD. TAKING BATHS IS A BIG PART OF LAND CULTURE.

THERE'S NO GRAVITY IN THE SEA. MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE LAUGHED SO HARD WHEN I TRIPPED.

I guess beasts from other countries laugh at different things from us too.

YOU FOUND THAT FUNNY?

YOU MOVED IN SUCH A SILLY WAY!

DID YOU JUST TRIP, LEGOSHI?!

Ho ho ho ho ho

IT WAS EMBARRASSING.

HEH HEH HEH...

THIS IS FUN.

I'M REALLY ENJOYING LIFE ON LAND... BECAUSE YOU'RE MY FRIEND.

I MEAN THAT SINCERELY.

THANK YOU, LEGOSHI...

...FOR BEING SO KIND TO A MARINE BEAST.

AWW... YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK ME.

REALLY, YOU DON'T.

DABABABI LEGOSHI PONPO-ROBU.

WHAT?

IT MEANS "I'M LEGOSHI, A GRAY WOLF" IN MARINE LANGUAGE. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF IF YOU EVER GET INTO TROUBLE AT SEA.

MAKE SURE YOU PRACTICE THIS WITH A NATIVE ACCENT.

"AND THEN MARINE BEASTS WILL HELP YOU."

I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT HE'S SAYING. WILL HE UNDER-STAND ME?

A MARINE BEAST! JUST MY BAD LUCK THAT IT'S A SHARK THOUGH!

I THOUGHT I SMELLED BLOOD...

WHAT'S A LAND BEAST DOING DOWN HERE?

DABABABI LEGOSHI PON-POROBU!

I HAVE FAITH IN SAG-WAN!

A POLITE BEAST WHO'S TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF... NOW I'LL EAT YOU.

YOU'RE LEGOSHI, A GRAY WOLF...

AH

H

ARGH! IS HE GOING TO DEVOUR ME?!

...

THIS WOLF...

...SPOKE MARINE LANGUAGE WITH AN EXCELLENT SEAL ACCENT.

THIS IS BAD! MARINE BEASTS HAVE A STRANGE VIEW OF LIFE AND DEATH. I BET THIS SHARK JUST SEES ME AS HIS AFTERNOON SNACK!

SEALS ARE INTELLIGENT. WE MARINE BEASTS CONSIDER THEM A NOBLE SPECIES.

Marine and Land Language Dictionary

Marine and Land Language Dictionary

THEREFORE, BEASTS WHO SPEAK MARINE LANGUAGE WITH A SEAL ACCENT ALSO DESERVE RESPECT...

...RUNNING OUT OF OXYGEN...

ARGH... I'M...

I HEARD YOU, BUT... YOU APPEAR TO BE SUFFERING, SINCE YOUR HANDS AND FEET ARE BOUND. SO I'LL EAT YOU QUICKLY.

Beast Bath

Bath

IT WAS. AND THE BREEZE FEELS SO GOOD TODAY.

THAT WAS A WONDER-FUL BATH, LEGOSHI!

AH, I SEE...

I apologize. I didn't know that.

N-NO! SEALS DON'T HAVE NASOLACRIMAL DUCTS. SO WE SHED TEARS WHEN WE'RE ON LAND!

SAGWAN... ARE YOU CRYING BECAUSE YOU ENJOYED YOUR BATH SO MUCH?!

?!

I NEVER CRIED WHEN I LIVED IN THE SEA... DEATH WAS AN EVERYDAY OCCURRENCE, SO I DIDN'T EVEN CRY WHEN A FRIEND DIED.

BUT...

SAG-WAN...

LEGOSHI... IF YOUR LIFE IS EVER IN DANGER WHEN YOU'RE AT SEA...

I WOULD SHED TEARS OF EMO-TION.

...I DON'T WANT **YOU** TO DIE, LEGOSHI! IF YOU DIED, I'D PROBABLY CRY.

...YELL, "AGAGA PAPUPU DABA GOMA BIIDA"...

...AS A LAST RESORT!

THOSE ARE SECRET MAGIC WORDS— BETWEEN YOU AND ME!

AGAGA PAPUPU DABA GOMA BIIDA...

THAT'S MARINE LAN-GUAGE. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I'M NOT TELLING.

COME ON! PLEASE! TELL ME!

SAGWAN...

AGAGA...

THAT MEANS...

AGAGA PAPU-PU DABA GOMA BIIDA!

(I'M FRIENDS WITH A SPOTTED SEAL!)

WHAT?!

...YOUR LIFE MUST BE VALUABLE.

YOU MUST LIVE ON! FOR THE SAKE OF BOTH LAND AND SEA.

HUF...

HUF...

YOU'RE A SPECIAL WOLF... YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER.

SPLASH

HUH

HUH

KOMM

KOMM

UGH.

HUH

HUH

HUH

HUH

THANK YOU, SAGWAN...

GRAB

AM I COMING DOWN WITH SOME-THING? I'D BETTER GO TO BED.

AH-CHOO!

Meanwhile...

Chapter 142: Beasts Can Live as Long as a Century Now?!

*This is what they were saying on the previous page.

IT'S TORORO— YOUR NEIGHBOR FROM BELOW. SOME OF YOUR LAUNDRY FELL ONTO MY BALCONY.

GOSHA!

RING

WHAT?

TORORO! PLEASE CLOSE YOUR EYES AND MOUTH!

HERE YOU GO! THIS IS YOUR TOWEL, ISN'T IT?

KA-CHAK

SPLASH!

I'M SORRY! I APOLOGIZE FOR DOING THIS TO A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR! BUT YOUR SAFETY COMES FIRST!

IT WAS KIND OF YOU TO BRING ME THE BATH TOWEL, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TOUCHED IT!

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

...

TO...

...DIS-INFECT YOU.

Disinfectant

...WOULD BE ENOUGH TO...

EVEN A TINY DROP ON AN OBJECT I USE EVERY DAY...

KOMODO DRAGON POISON IS DEADLY!

...ROT YOUR FLESH!

I'm fine! Really!

YOU WORRY TO MUCH ABOUT YOUR POISON, GOSHA.

Ha ha ha

YOU'RE EXAGGER-ATING!

...SPENDING HIS LATTER YEARS QUITE PEACEFULLY.

I'M A POI-SONOUS SPECIES ...

I'M AN OLD KOMODO DRAGON.

SOR-RY...

KEEP THAT DISIN-FECTANT WARMED UP FOR ME NEXT TIME, OKAY? HA HA...

I'M MORE LIKELY TO CATCH A CHILL...

I PRAY THAT MY GRAND-SON LEGOSHI IS HAPPY AND HEALTHY.

I SET OUT AN OFFERING OF RICE AND WATER FOR MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER EVERY MORNING.

I COME HOME IN THE EVENING AT EIGHT AND WATCH THE NEWS WHILE EATING DINNER.

An old Komodo dragon can still work hard.

SOME-TIMES I PICK UP A SHIFT AT A CON-STRUC-TION SITE ON WEEK-DAYS.

I RECENTLY BOUGHT AN AIR CONDITIONER FOR COLD-BLOODED BEASTS. IT HELPS ME SLEEP BETTER.

OH, THAT'S WHY THAT WATER WAS SO COLD...

THEN GO TO BED AT TEN.

...BECAUSE I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT LEGOSHI.

I WAS SLEEP-ING FITFUL-LY...

...OUGHT TO BE PACIFISTS AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OTHERS.

I'VE ALWAYS TAUGHT HIM THAT STRONG SPECIES...

THAT'LL CHEER ME UP.

OH! TOMORROW'S SATURDAY...

HE BARELY SURVIVED GETTING SHOT. I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH HIM GET MIXED UP IN MORE VIOLENCE.

Grandpa!

LEGOSHI REMINDS ME OF MY YOUNGER DAYS, WHEN I WAS ALWAYS UP FOR A BATTLE. I WISH HE HADN'T TAKEN AFTER ME.

Mah-jong 9

Dust Bath Salon

Dust Bath

Bar ♡ Akit

BECAUSE THAT'S THE DAY I GO TO A SPECIAL PLACE NEAR THE BLACK MARKET— A NON-DESCRIPT LOCATION THAT DOESN'T ATTRACT ATTENTION.

FDGT FDGT

A PLACE THAT BRIGHTENS MY HUMDRUM LIFE...

SATURDAY IS MY FAVORITE DAY OF THE WEEK!

Toju Hands

give me money

MY PLEASURE. I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS EVERY WEEK.

THANK YOU FOR COMING, GOSHA.

EVERY SATUR-DAY, I VOL-UNTEER HERE...

...IN THIS NURSERY FOR MIXED-SPECIES CHILDREN.

Dad Mom

GOSHA?

Mom

Dad

Mothe

I BROUGHT SOMETHING FUN FOR YOU.

HELLO, EVERYONE! HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD TODAY?

GOSHA!

Toju H

OH, IT'S GOSHA!

YAY

GIVE ME A HUG.

Dad Mom

WE TOOK OUT A LOAN TO RENOVATE THIS PUB INTO A NURSERY SCHOOL...

WOW! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I BROUGHT CRAYONS AND DRAWING PADS... I HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

...SO WE'RE SHORT OF FUNDS FOR SUPPLIES ...

THIS NURSERY TAKES CARE OF MIXED-SPECIES CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY OTHER NURSERY SCHOOLS.

CHILDREN WHO OBVIOUSLY LOOK LIKE MIXED-SPECIES BEASTS DRAW UNWANTED ATTENTION. A LOT OF PUREBLOOD BEASTS ARE UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND THEM.

GATHER ROUND, EVERYONE. GOSHA IS GOING TO READ YOU A STORY.

THEY'RE JUST INNO-CENT CHIL-DREN.

Oo,

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'LL READ IT.

GOSHA! READ THIS PICTURE BOOK TO ME!

Pear Boy

KEEP IT DOWN, CHILDREN. WE HAVE CLEANERS HERE TODAY.

OKAY!

Mother

Brush your fangs!

Wash your Paws!

Gargle

Pear Boy

NOD

OH, I SEE. THANKS FOR THE HELP.

WE TOOK THEM UP ON IT. DUST IS BAD FOR OUR KIDS WITH ALLER-GIES.

THEY WERE WORKING NEXT DOOR, AND THEY GENEROUSLY OFFERED TO CLEAN OUR CEILING TOO.

YES, IT IS HARD TO READ UPSIDE DOWN.

IT'S HARD TO READ THAT WAY.

OH... YOU'RE RIGHT! SORRY!

GOSHA! YOU'RE HOLDING THE BOOK UPSIDE DOWN!

"ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS AN OLD MALE AND AN OLD FEMALE..."

Once upon a time,

there was an old male

and an old female.

The old male went to get rid of his fleas. The old woman went to bathe in the river. When she got there, she saw a huge pear floating...

HERE WE GO!

ALL RIGHT, THEN. TODAY I'LL READ YOU PEAR BOY.

...LIKE *THAT* CLEANER UP THERE.

THOSE BEASTS AREN'T AFRAID TO VIEW OUR WORLD FROM THE OPPOSITE PERSPECTIVE.

HOWEVER... THERE ARE SPECIES WHO LIVE THEIR ***WHOLE LIVES*** HANGING UPSIDE DOWN. THEY CAN READ THIS BOOK WHILE I'M HOLDING IT THE WRONG WAY.

YOU MEAN... BEASTS LIKE BATS?

THAT'S RIGHT.

SO IF THOSE BEASTS TWIST THEIR NECKS TO LOOK AT THE WORLD AS ***WE*** SEE IT...

...THAT INDI-CATES THAT THEY'RE NER-VOUS...

Once upon a time, there was an old male and an old female.

The old male went to get rid of his fleas. The old woman went to bathe in the river. When she got there, she saw a huge pear floating...

I BET YOU WERE SURPRISED WHEN A MONSTER LIKE ME SHOWED UP.

YOU MUST KNOW THAT THE ONLY STAFF MEMBER HERE IS A FEMALE IMPALA, AND THE CHILDREN ARE SMALL AND WEAK.

YOU DON'T NEED TO PRETEND ANY-MORE.

Wash ir paws!

2!

TEACHER... WOULD YOU PLEASE STEP OUTSIDE WITH THE CHILDREN FOR A MOMENT?

W-WHAT?! OH, Y-YES. LET'S GO, EVERY-ONE...

RTTL
CHAK

GOSHA... AREN'T YOU GOING TO READ US THE REST OF THE BOOK?

I WILL LATER. I PROMISE.

I USED TO FLICK MY TONGUE IN AND OUT OF MY MOUTH WHEN I WAS A MERCENARY TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF ENEMIES BY DETECTING THEIR SCENT.

I HAVEN'T DONE THIS IN A WHILE.

BUT I AM SURPRISED THAT THERE ARE SO MANY OF YOU...

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

THIS IS A SPECIAL NURSERY SCHOOL... I'M NOT SURPRISED TO SEE A BEAST LIKE YOU INFILTRATING IT.

Wash your paws!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE TODAY...

I'LL FILL YOU UP WITH KOMODO DRAGON POISON INSTEAD!

ATTACKING CHILDREN IS UNFORGIVABLE!

THE CEILING IS FULL OF VAMPIRE BATS. YOU'RE ALL HERE FOR THE BLOOD OF THESE MIXED-SPECIES CHILDREN, AREN'T YOU?

TELL ME ABOUT THEM.

A PURE-SPECIES SUPREMACY GROUP ...?!

THEY'RE EXTREMISTS. THEY BELIEVE ONLY PUREBLOOD BEASTS SHOULD EXIST. THEIR MISSION IS TO ERADICATE MIXED-SPECIES BEASTS.

THEY OPERATE IN SECRET. NO ONE OUTSIDE THE BLACK MARKET KNOWS ABOUT THEM.

WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY MEMBERS THERE ARE.

THEY CAN TELL US WHAT MELON'S WEAKNESS IS.

That's messed up...

ARE YOU TELLING ME ***THEY'RE*** MELON'S WEAKNESS? YOU'RE COUNTING ON THIS GROUP TO TAKE OUT MELON?

THEY'RE A FREAKY, DANGEROUS BUNCH. THE BOSS IS A MUSK CAT. HE GIVES HIS SUBORDINATE BATS COFFEE BEANS HE'S EXCRETED AS THEIR PRIMARY REWARD.

THEY'RE OBSESSED WITH PURITY, SO THEY KNOW A LOT ABOUT MIXED-SPECIES BEASTS.

YEP. IN SOME WAYS, THOSE FELINES ARE EVEN MORE FORMIDABLE THAN LIONS AND TIGERS.

A MUSK CAT... THAT'S A RARE SPECIES. ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVET CAT, RIGHT?

BUT ASKING THEM FOR INFORMA-TION IS OUR ONLY OPTION.

THE BATS WHO WORK FOR HIM MUST BE TOUGH CUSTOMERS TOO.

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!

WHAT...

...THE HELL?

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OPEN MY VENOM DUCTS.

DRIP

OOZE

HOW CAN I PREACH PACIFISM IF I DON'T PROTECT THESE CHILDREN?!

I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT...

TCH... CAN'T A MONSTER SPEND HIS OLD AGE IN PEACE?

I'LL TURN EVERY ONE OF YOU INTO ZOMBIES!

THEY'RE NAMED AFTER THE FANCY COFFEE MUSK CATS PRODUCE.

ARGH... I BET THEIR BOSS IS SUPER SCARY...

THEIR GANG IS CALLED KOPI LUWAK.

I'M THEIR BOSS. IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.

I HOPE THEY COME BACK SOON!

GRIND KRKKCH

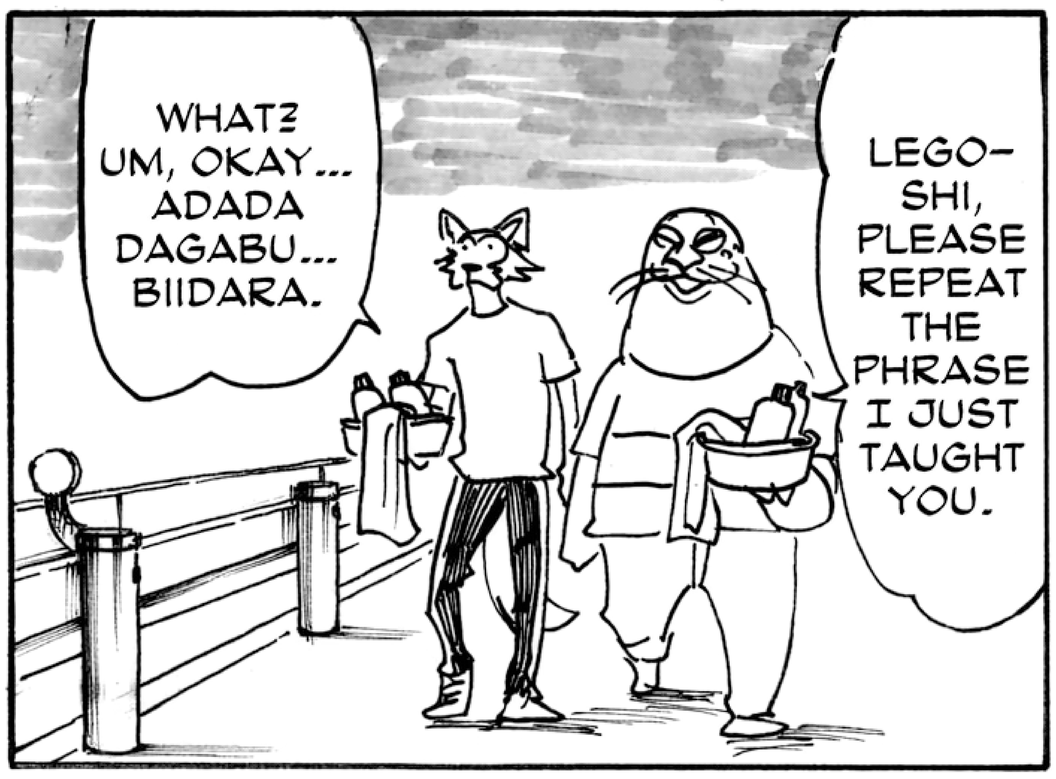
GRIND KRKKCH

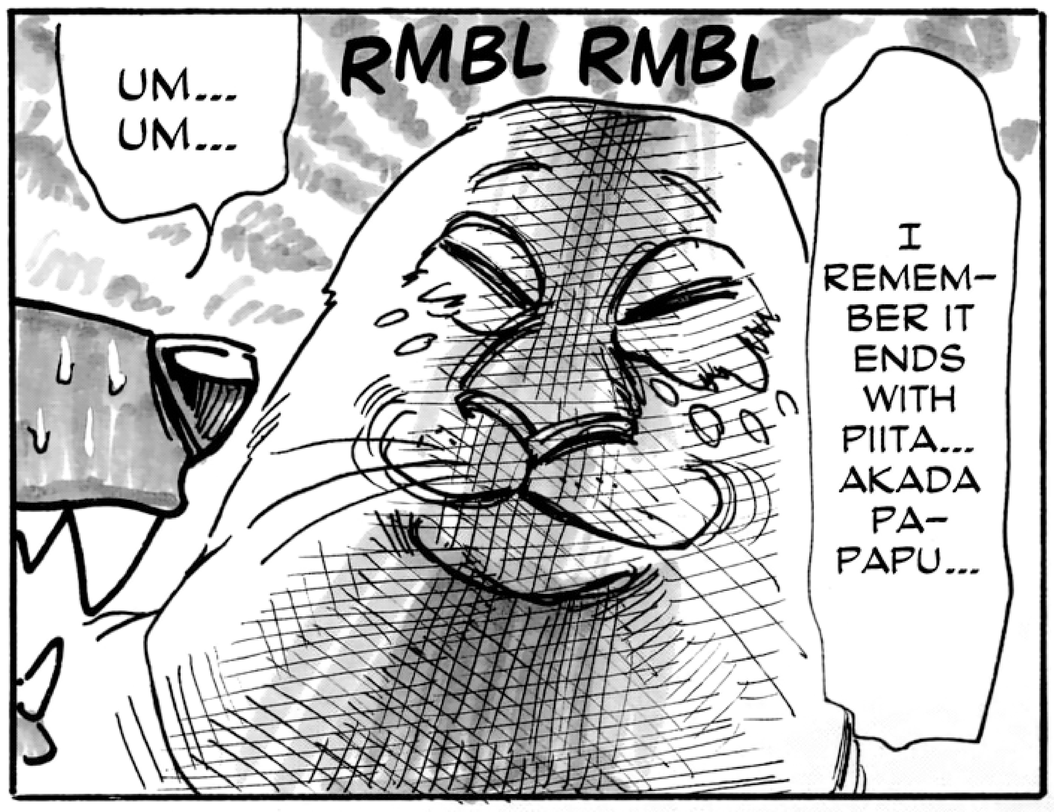
I'LL GRIND THIS COFFEE FOR THE BATS' REWARD WHEN THEY RETURN.

END OF BEASTARS VOL. 16

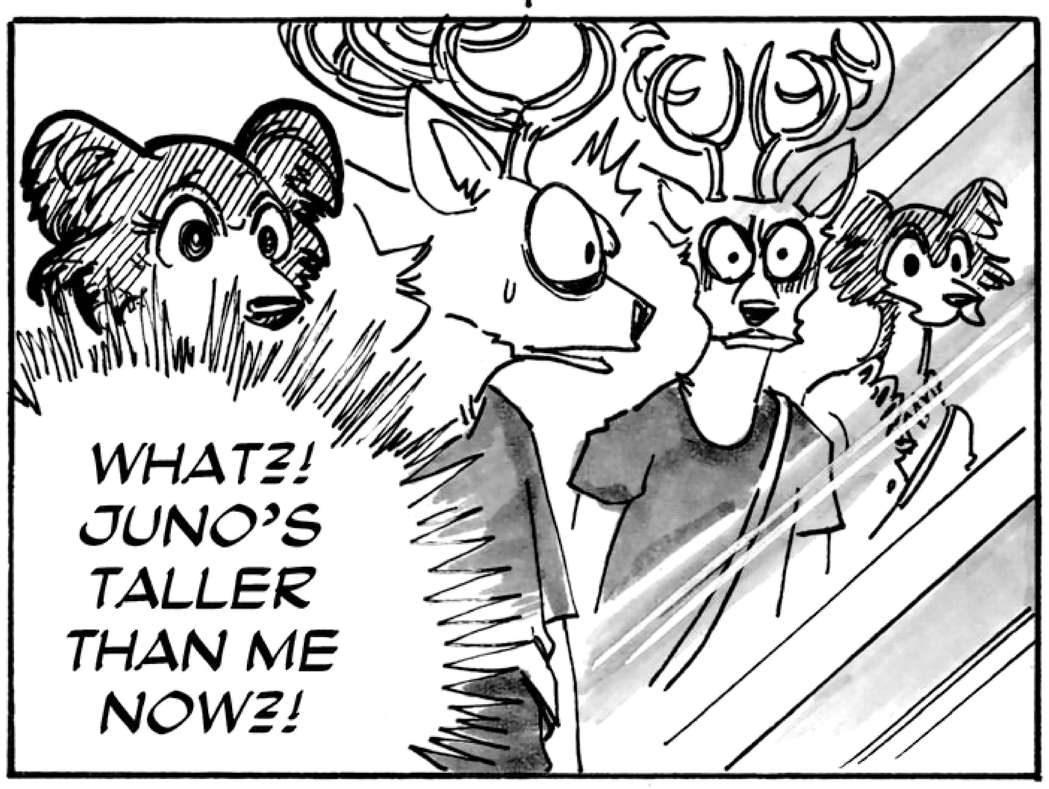
To be continued...

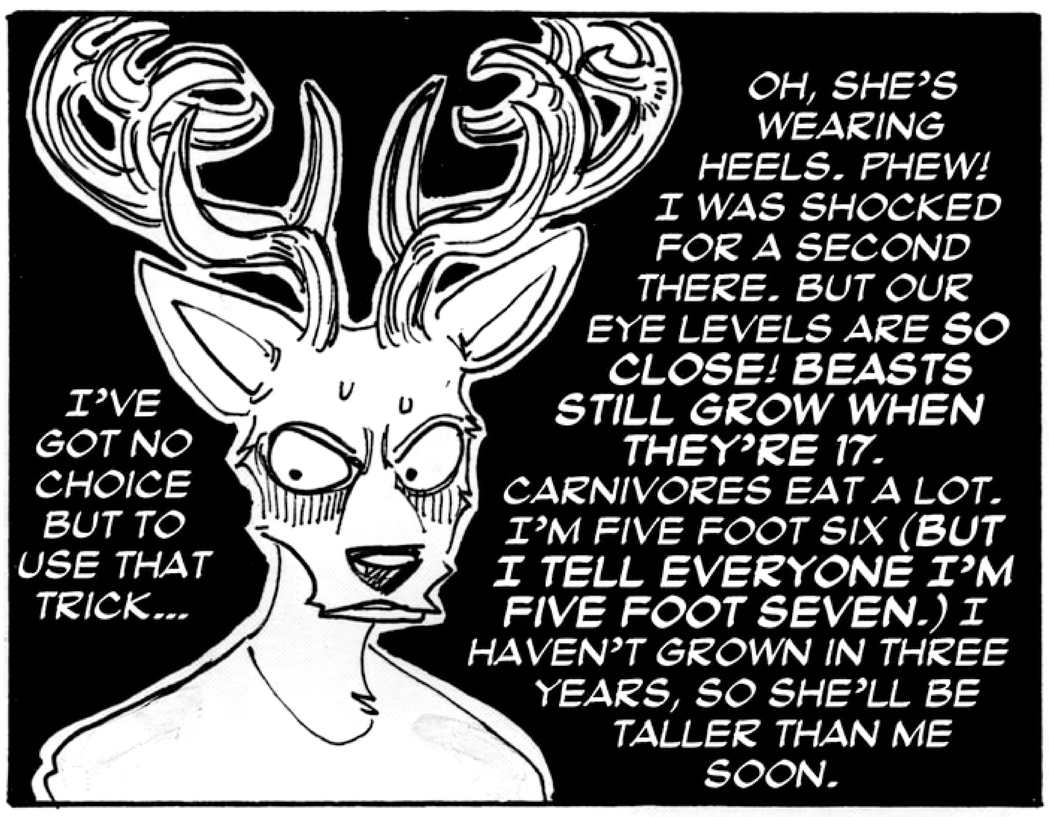
The Inside Story of Chapter 141

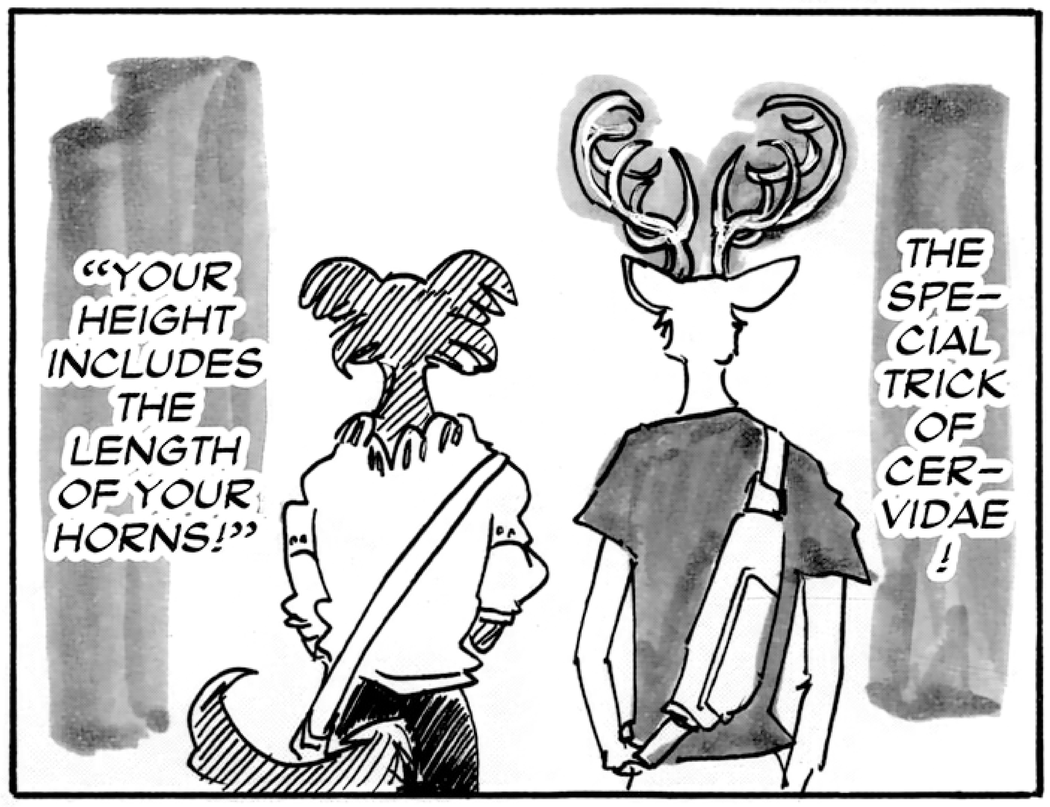




A Funny Anecdote from Chapter 136







*Continues on p. 9 of ch. 136.

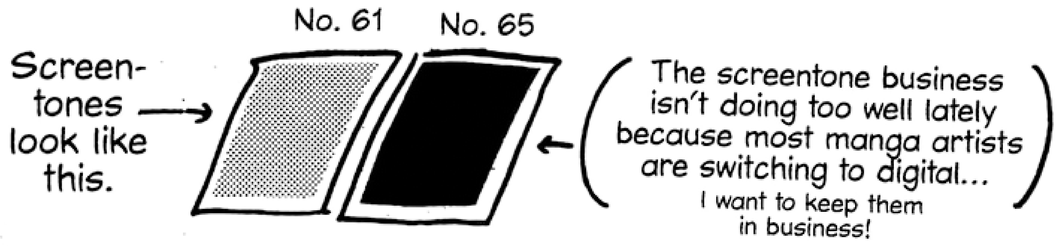
BEASTARS

SCRATCHED screentones and PLAIN screentones

I'm not sure if you readers are interested in a how-to about such detailed techniques, but here goes... I absolutely love determining a well-defined light source in a panel and putting shadows on the characters!

← Like this

Maybe it's because I learned how interesting lighting is when I studied film-making in college. In manga, screentone is used to produce shadows.



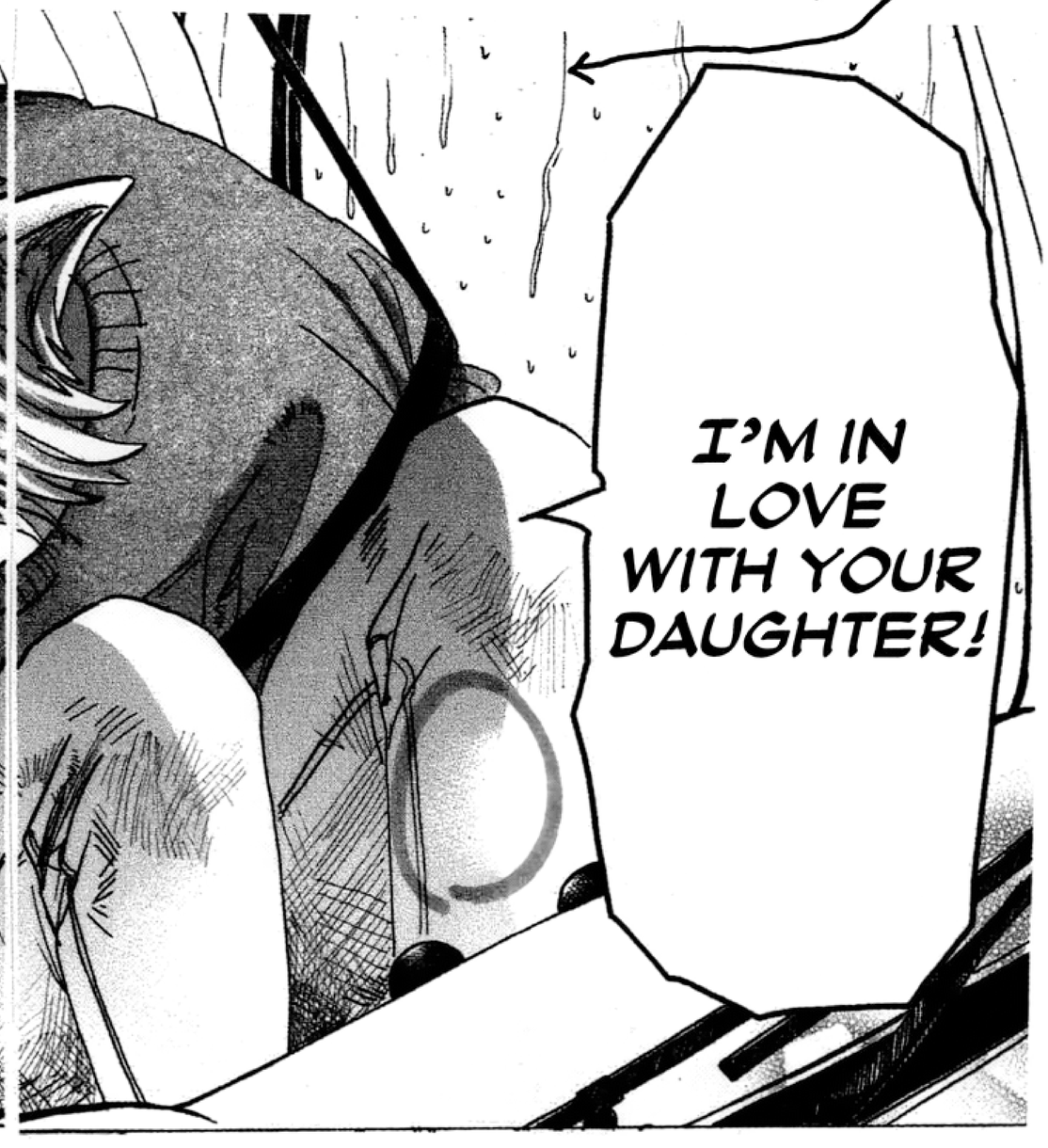
We use two types of screentones at the BEASTARS workplace.

← The first one is the screentone as is. These screentones aren't scratched.

I do almost all of this work myself. That's because I'm not good at the scratching... Scraping screentones with a small blade requires a lot of training and practice. My assistants are experts at it.

Even just a little bit of scratching makes the character look more three-dimensional and the drawing very polished!

I apply the plain screentones while my assistants are busy with other work. I don't disklike the task. Weirdly, I enjoy the stress of cutting them precisely. There's so much to learn about screentone work!



What Happened when BEASTARS Became an Anime

BEASTARS IS GOING TO BE MADE INTO AN ANIME!
My former editor
Professional Wrestling
PARU!
JACK DANIEL'S No.7
KRRR

Uh... Um... I like the voice actors with the most normal speaking voices!

CHOOSE THE VOICE ACTORS.

What ?!

LOOK OVER THE CHAR-ACTER DE-SIGNS.

LOOK OVER THE SCRIPTS.

What ?!

LOOK OVER THE PLOTS.

The way I felt about BEASTARS becoming an anime built gradually like this over time, so I never had a discrete, intense, instantaneous moment of joy.

It's actually going to happen!

Hope and anxiety

...THIS ANIME PROJECT IS FOR REAL...

THUMP THUMP

I THINK...

That means the voice actors are free to move around as they act out their roles, and the animators match their drawings to their acting.

I imagine them per-forming like this.

Micro-phone

The BEASTARS anime is made using prescoring.

So the finished product is more like a live-action movie than an anime. It's amazing!

The anime Legoshi has a slimmer face than in the manga. He looks cute.

That's why I was so moved and grateful when I watched the first episode.

WOW....

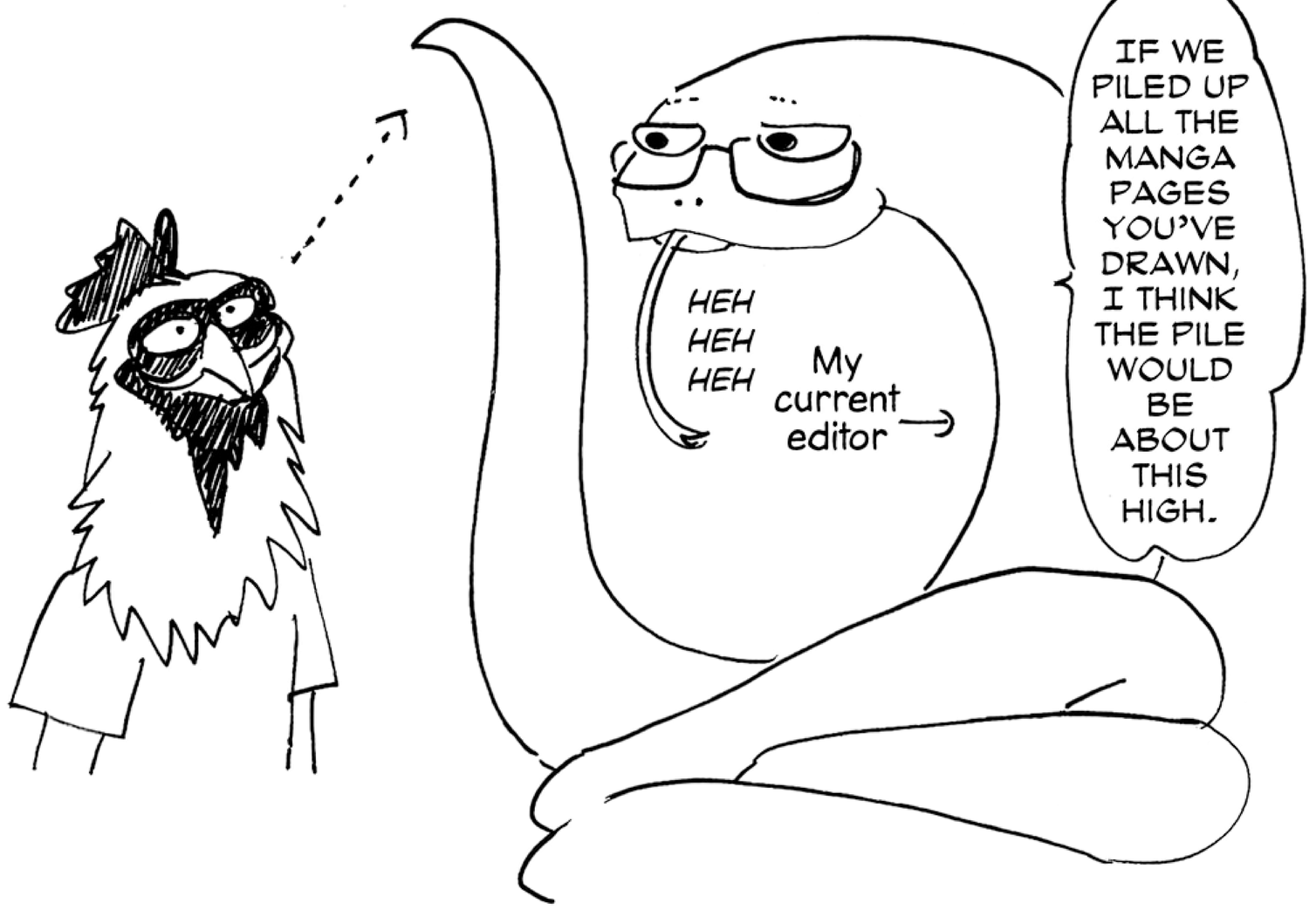
BEASTARS Vol. 16
Paru Itagaki

~ Chapter 50 ~

~Chapter 100~

~ Chapter 150 ~

Weekly Champion editors really like talking about the height of my pile of manga pages.



I'm going to record what I was thinking when I was drawing *Beastars*, something like the "inside story."

This is about chapter 100, "When the Train Is Packed" (volume 12). I have strong feelings about this chapter, partly because 100 is a round number. Seven's heart was shattered because she'd been discriminated against and harassed at her workplace for a very long time. There's a scene near the end of the chapter where she taps her cheek three times in front of Legoshi. In the *Beastars* world, this is equivalent to committing suicide. It meant she was asking Legoshi to eat her.

This scene was inspired by a personal experience.

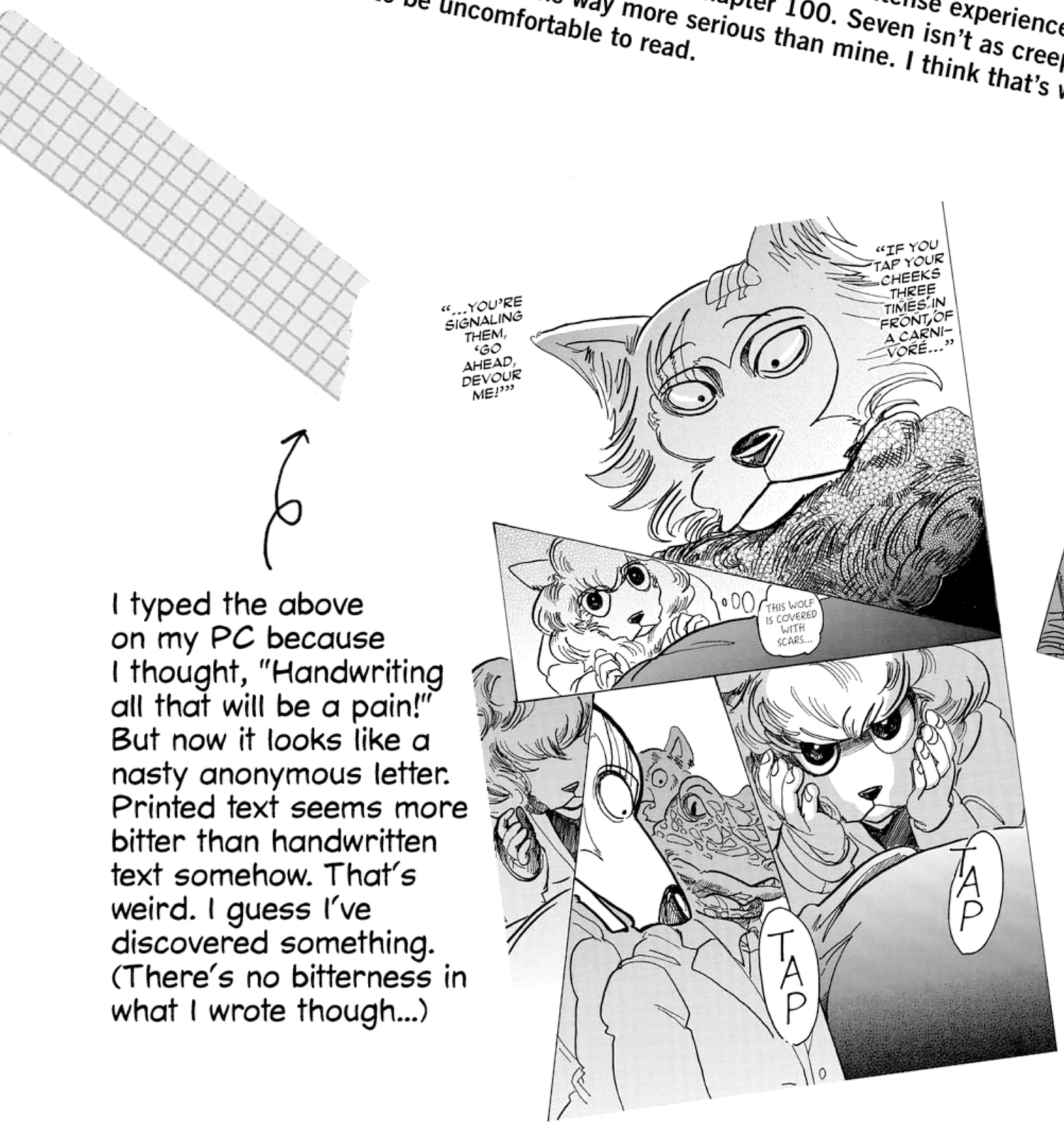
The incident occurred when I was in high school. I had a quarrel with a friend over something trivial, and the friend stopped talking to me for a long time. Like Seven, I wasn't aware at first that my heart had been shattered. I had trouble sleeping at night, and I hated going to school every day.

I was sitting in the train on the way home from school one day when a man with a large build and glassy eyes came and stood in front of me. All of a sudden I thought, "I wish this man would kidnap me." I was hoping my friend would worry about me if I were kidnapped. But the main reason is that I wanted to run away from my problems. I was so desperate that I looked the man straight in the eye. I even smiled slightly at him. (What the hell was I doing?!) Come to think of it, I was making assumptions about this man as well as disrespecting him. I regretted my actions. That's why I had Legoshi rebuke Seven by saying "You're being disrespectful" and then push her out of the train.

I thought being a female high school student made me special somehow. I felt like a victim because a friend was ignoring me. Then there was the thrill of seducing (did that count as seducing?) someone of the opposite sex on a crowded train. I thought I was tired of life, but I wasn't really. All of that made me fall into the trap of such self-centered behavior.

I don't think I've ever behaved as badly and creepily since then. I wonder why this memory of the unpleasantness that people possess inside has remained in my heart for such a long time. The incident on the train was over in a flash. It happened almost ten years ago, yet it left a lasting impression on me. Am I indulging in this memory and falling into the trap of self-absorption even now? (If that's true, I really, really suck.)

I was hoping I'd eventually be able to sublimate this creepy and intense experience by incorporating it into my manga. That's why I drew chapter 100. Seven isn't as creepy as I was. And she has to deal with problems way more serious than mine. I think that's why this chapter didn't turn out to be uncomfortable to read.



I typed the above on my PC because I thought, "Handwriting all that will be a pain!" But now it looks like a nasty anonymous letter. Printed text seems more bitter than handwritten text somehow. That's weird. I guess I've discovered something. (There's no bitterness in what I wrote though...)

WHEN PEOPLE USED TO ASK ME WHY I STILL DREW MY MANGA 100 PERCENT BY HAND, I COULDN'T GIVE THEM A CLEAR-CUT ANSWER BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHY MYSELF. BUT RECENTLY I REALIZED IT'S BECAUSE TOOLS YOU CAN TOUCH AND FEEL ARE INTRINSICALLY SATISFYING.

PARU ITAGAKI

Paru Itagaki began her professional career as a manga author in 2016 with the short story collection **BEAST COMPLEX**. **BEASTARS** is her first serialization. **BEASTARS** has won multiple awards in Japan, including the prestigious 2018 Manga Taisho Award.

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BEASTARS is rated T+ and is recommended for ages 16 and up. It contains adult themes, sexual situations, and violence.